Daily Report

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Ukraine May 'Attempt To Remain' Nuclear Power

LD3003093792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0907 GMT 30 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Valentin Vasilets]

[Text] Ottawa, 30 Mar [dateline as received]—Despite its policy proclaimed earlier, and the assurances given by parliament and its president, it is possible that Ukraine will attempt to remain a nuclear power. A CANADIAN PRESS correspondent reports from Kiev, "Government and parliament leaders in Ukraine are saying that they are quietly but seriously studying the possibility of a fundamental change in policy, according to which the new independent state will preserve a certain number of nuclear weapons."

According to the correspondent, such a step "will be perceived in the West as extremely contradictory. The West has many times expressed concern regarding control over the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union since its collapse last December."

According to the author of the report, leaders in the government and parliament of Ukraine are now stating that there are two reasons for their renewed interest in maintaining a place in the closed nuclear club: "The desire to be taken seriously in the international arena, and fear of Russia."

The author quotes Viktor Antonov, the minister for defense conversion, who said: "People tell us we are acting stupidly, declaring that we are giving up nuclear weapons without demanding anything in return." Sergey Kolesnik, a member of the parlimentary committee for military affairs, agrees with him: "Suppose America began sending its nuclear weapons to Canada, and imagine what everyone would think. They are laughing at Ukraine in the Pentagon."

Noting that the Ukrainian parliament will soon begin discussing the country's military policy, the CANADIAN PRESS correspondent writes that parliament "may review its stance on the nuclear issue." Stepan Khmara, member of parliament, stated that more and more deputies "are coming round to the idea that Ukraine should remain a nuclear country. In this unstable world it would be suicide for nations possessing nuclear weapons to reject the idea of nuclear status without any guarantees. The majority of parliamentarians realize this." Antonov says, the author continues, that there is one more reason for the change in the stance, in accordance with which Ukraine was dispatching its tactical nuclear weapons to Russia. He says that the nuclear materials in the warheads are worth $1 billion, or even more. Antonov complains that Ukraine began dispatching weapons to Russia without receiving anything in return. After all, it has to buy nuclear fuel for its power stations from Russia.

"Many Ukrainian leaders also think that they made a mistake when, under Western pressure, they agreed to let Russian President Boris Yeltsin have main control of strategic nuclear weapons, including ballistic missiles," the report says. "The West only recognizes strength, one Ukrainian legislator stated, and Ukraine intends to be strong."

'Nuclear Temptation' of Ukraine Assessed

PM3003113492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Article by Andrey Ostalskiy: "Nuclear Ukraine Not End of the World"]

[Text] It looks as if the Ukrainian leaders may not be able to resist the "nuclear temptation" and the possibility of quickly and easily bringing their country in a single move into the realm of the great nuclear powers. And all the complications resulting from this, even the West's exasperated reaction, will not be able to halt Kiev.

It is clear that the emergence of yet another powerful nuclear power right next to Russia greatly changes the geopolitical map of Europe and indeed of the whole world, makes the equation of the military-political equilibrium many times more complex, and so on. Does this not point to universal disaster? I do not think so. A scenario whereby this development of events might turn out to be a blessing is not even ruled out—history likes paradoxes.

Remember all those myths in whose grips we lived. The "nuclear-free world" upon close scrutiny turned out to be one of them, a dream which did not stand up in reality.

However, leaders of the USSR—from Stalin to Chernenko—used this myth in a fairly cynical manner, as a kind of bait for foreign liberal fools. They used it and at the same time laid plans for protracted nuclear wars with the West, plans for "preemptive nuclear strikes" against the imperialists which were devised by the General Staff. They appealed for nuclear disarmament from the podium at the United Nations, but labeled those trusting fellow citizens who in their naivete had taken the propaganda designed for export in too literal a manner as unreliable pacifists.

It seems that only Gorbachev seriously believed in this dream and even at one time almost converted the idealist Reagan to his faith.

The war in the Persian Gulf was a time of reckoning. Saddam Husayn's escapade proved that the idea of a "nuclear-free world" is not only utopian but also dangerous, inasmuch as it creates illusions and hopes among dictators of their instantly becoming rulers of the world.

When Margaret Thatcher unleashed on unprepared Soviet television viewers the idea, which for many people in the West is entirely commonplace, of the good sense and necessity (albeit as the lesser of two evils) of

nuclear deterrence, it caused a shock. At that time the majority was not yet ready to accept her argument that it was precisely the presence of nuclear weapons, the "balance of fear," which had allowed a world split into hostile camps to avoid a third world war—which is an absolute miracle if you think about it. In the meantime the adversaries had piled up so many instruments of destruction and mass murder that their use would produce an effect little less than that of an atomic bomb.

The western political scientists' experience over 45 years had led them to the idea that nuclear weapons are not weapons at all, as they are created not to be used in war but only to maintain an equilibrium between hostile states—and in the last analysis to maintain peace. But what about Hiroshima and Nagasaki? The whole point is that for an atomic bomb to stop being a weapon and become a means of deterrence, one condition must be fulfilled: that both the warring sides possess it. Otherwise the temptation of using it becomes, on the contrary, too great....

Looking today at certain demonstrators in Kiev and Moscow, whose faces are twisted with hatred as they read bellicose statements by parliamentarians and political leaders who are ready to pay "any price" for the Crimea or the Black Sea Fleet, it does not stretch the imagination that the Serbian and Croatian "experience" may very well lie in store for Russians and Ukrainians in the future. True, with the present distribution of political forces—with President Yeltsin in Moscow and President Kravchuk in Kiev, a full-scale Russo-Ukrainian war still seems impossible. But the political equilibrium is not permanent, and politicians are even less permanent. So nobody can guarantee that at some moment the dreadful hour will not arrive when it will remain for the pacifists on both sides to put their trust in nuclear deterrence.

'Apprehensions' of Brain Drain 'Unfounded'

LD3003103892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 30 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Not a single specialist cognizant of "nuclear secrets" has gone abroad for permanent residence, representatives of Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy told a news conference at the Russian Security Ministry's Public Relations Centre today. They do not rule out the possibility of nuclear physicists' unauthorised departures for foreign countries but maintain that necessary measures to prevent this are being taken.

"Apprehensions about a leak of nuclear secrets from Russia are unfounded," Aleksandr Gurov, a deputy of Russian parliament and staff member of the Security Ministry, emphasised in his remarks.

In addition, speakers at the news conference said there had been not a single case of the smuggling of radioactive substances, which can be used in the development of nuclear weapons, out of the country. Besides, the production of a nuclear bomb requires huge financial expenditures and the involvement of a large number of scientists of most diverse specialisation.

The news conference also dealt with the subject of the safety of nuclear power facilities. According to experts, design work is under way to improve the safety systems of nuclear power stations.

It will be by far more beneficial to use safety engineering novelties than to close down first-generation nuclear reactors, which may lead to an energy and economic disaster, speakers argued.

'Hullabaloo' Raised 'Deliberately'

OW3003134692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1239 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's security ministry has resolutely refuted all rumors about the leak of nuclear technology or exit of nuclear physicists to other countries. The ministry's deputy press secretary Aleksandr Gurov said competent agencies had no information to prove reports of that kind.

Mikhail Bazhanov, head of the Russian Parliament Committee on Conversion, said that the narrow circle of scientists employed at nuclear facilities in Arzamas-16 and Chelyabinsk-70 had not even applied for departure abroad. None of their former colleagues had tried to settle down to live outside Russia.

According to Bazhanov, Russian citizens have not sold to any foreign parties any materials used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Experts in nuclear physics told journalists about an affair involving "red mercury"—in their view, a non-existent material around which considerable agitation was aroused six months ago, after anonymous Western firms had offered to buy the stuff at $250 a gram from Russian partners.

Mikhail Bazhanov said that 100% of plutonium and uranium capable of being used in nuclear arms production on the territory of the former Soviet Union were now produced in Russia. The security ministry maintains that the hullabaloo was raised over the matter deliberately. According to Gurov, the organizers pursued three goals: to discredit the government and president of Russia, try to oust Russia from the international market, and take its nuclear forces under control.

Estonian 'Refutes' Claim of Increased Radiation

OW2903140092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Mayor's Office in Narva, following the March 24 accident at the Leningrad nuclear power plant the city's sanitary and rescue services and the local meteorological station measured the radioactivity background in various parts of the city and found it to be at 16-20 microroentgen per hour.

This refutes the report that the radioactivity background in Narva increased twofold, over which Estonia protested to the Russian Government.

As is known, on March 24 a technological disruption at the Leningrad nuclear power plant resulted in a release of inert gases and radioactive iodine into the atmosphere.

The history of Soviet-made nuclear reactors RBRK [high-power pressure tube] has so far known two similar incidents—an outflow of radioactive matter at the Leningrad power plant in 1976 and the tragedy in Chernobyl in 1982.

Accident 'Poses No Threat' to Finland

LD2803224992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2104 GMT 28 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Prisyazhny]

[Text] Finland March 28 TASS—The amount of radioactive substances, which fell on the territory of Finland after the accident at the Leningrad nuclear power plant, was smalled by 100,000 times than the corresponding figure after the Chernobyl catastrophe. [sentence as received] It poses no threat to the population. This conclusion was drawn by specialists from the radiation safety centre of Finland, which circulated a statement for the press today about the circumstances and possible consequences of the incident in Sosnovyy Bor.

Energy Shortage Rules Out Closing Reactors

PM2903131692 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 92 p 2

[Report by K. Belyaninov: "How Much Would It Cost To Close Down 16 Reactors?"]

[Text] The incident at the Leningrad AES [nuclear power station] has started people talking about Chernobyl again. The arguments about the safety of RBMK [high-power pressure tube] type reactors, which had seemed to be dying down, have filled the pages of the Western press, while Germany's ecology ministry demanded the immediate closure of all 16 "Chernobyl-type" units operating in the CIS.

"There can be no question of closing down the power stations," came the reply from the Russian Ministry of Nuclear Power [Minatom]. "Given the present shortage of electricity, we simply cannot voluntarily deprive ourselves of the 12 percent of our energy capacities that the AES's provide."

Despite claims by Ministry of Nuclear Power specialists that the safety of the 11 RBMK reactors located in Russia is up to all international standards, Western experts insist that they should be modernized. True, given the present economic situation in the CIS countries there simply is not the money for this: According to IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] estimates, the modernization of each reactor would cost $2 million.

"The EC has been promising us 60 million ECUs [European currency units] for two years now, but we have not seen the money yet," Yevgeniy Ignatenko, chief of an administration at the Ministry of Nuclear Power, says.

However, in the opinion of nuclear experts, the fuss made over the Leningrad AES is not "ecological," but purely commercial in nature: Russia, as well as Sweden and Germany, is participating in the competition announced by Finland for the construction of the next unit at the AES there:

"By talking about our power stations' shortcomings, they simply hope to deprive us of an advantageous contract that promises profits running into billions [currency not stated]."

France Willing To Help CIS Dismantle Weapons

LD2703232192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] France is willing to aid Russia and the other nuclear republics on formerly Soviet territory in their attempts to dismantle their nuclear weapons. President Mitterrand has appointed the one time secretary of state on defense matters, Gerard Renon, the head of the French delegation that is to arrive in Moscow on the 29th of this month to discuss during the next three days the possible use of French technologies in the transformation of plutonium for its eventual use for civilian purposes.

TASS Notes Bush Plan To Unveil Aid Program

LD3003085892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0850 GMT 30 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, March 30 TASS—U.S. President George Bush told journalists during a brief meeting on Sunday [29 March] that he was preparing a new plan for aid to former Soviet republics. He declined to give details but promised, "it will be good". "I will have something to say on that this week", he added.

Bush's proposal has already been widely reported. THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper reported on Friday [27 March] with reference to informed official sources that a draft new programme of aid to the former Soviet Union had been referred to the President by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and was under scrutiny in the White House.

According to the newspaper, the new aid package is envisioned to include the following elements: contribution to an international fund to stablise the Russian rouble, an expansion of humanitarian and technical assistance, an additional food aid, repeal of the laws which were adopted during the cold-war period and which now hinder the development of trade with the former Soviet Union, and a 12 billion dollar increase for the U.S. commitment to the IMF (the latter measure would enable the IMF to determine larger quotas for Russia and other ex-Soviet republics that applied for IMF membership—note by ITAR-TASS).

Forces Ready To Fire on Submarine Intruder

PM2903143492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 92 p 2

[Report by correspondent Captain 1st Rank A. Pilipchuk under the rubric "Details for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA": "Antisubmarine Warfare Forces Were Prepared To Use Weapons"]

[Text] As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported in its 27 March issue, citing the CIS Joint Armed Forces Press Center, at 0905 Moscow time 25 March ships of the Northern Fleet detected a submerged foreign submarine at the entrance to the Kola Gulf.

It was not difficult to reach that conclusion, the Navy Main Staff told us, in view of the fact that there were no submarines of the CIS Navy in the immediate vicinity. From the nature of the maneuvering by the underwater target—a speed of 12 knots (22 kilometers per hour) for five hours, with abrupt changes of course—it can be assumed that the boat was a nuclear submarine.

But not everyone holds that view. As our permanent correspondent for the Northern Fleet was told by Captain 1st Rank Boris Sannikov, chief of the fleet's antisubmarine section, the fleet's analysts have not ruled out the possibility that it could have been a diesel submarine.

The captain 1st rank specified the time at which contact was made with the submarine by the duty sonar operator of the destroyer Gremyashchiy—0830. This was 7 miles northwest of Kildin Island.

The ships already at sea were joined by duty antisubmarine forces—ships, planes, and helicopters—which went into action when the Northern Fleet command post raised the alarm. The search forces were under the command of Capt. 1st Rank Vladimir Veregin. An antisubmarine barrier of hydroacoustic buoys, some 100 km long, was put in place at sea from the air. The chief of the Northern Fleet antisubmarine section stressed that these forces not only carried out the tracking of the foreign submarine and its expulsion from territorial waters, but also undertook measures to force it to surface. In accordance with international rules, a series of grenades were thrown and underwater sound communications facilities were used. The commander of the boat that had penetrated our territorial waters must have known that such measures could be followed by the use of antisubmarine weapons, but he did not surface.

The editorial office has learned from reliable sources that the antisubmarine forces were ready to do their duty, and a telegram seeking permission to use weapons had been prepared. A single salvo from a rocket-propelled depth charge launcher would have been enough to make the submarine commander realize that there was no intention of fooling around and to make him surface. However, the final and—let us emphasize—lawful conclusion did not come.

Yet even after the February incident with the U.S. nuclear submarine Baton Rouge, on 19 March the Northern Fleet's antisubmarine forces detected a foreign submarine 30 miles from our coast. It must be admitted that people are treating us rather unceremoniously at present, making themselves at home in Russian territorial waters. Is the fact that they get off scot-free to blame for this?

Incident Examined

LD2803235192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Studio interview with commentator Viktor Levin by correspondent Andrey Ptashnikov; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ptashnikov] I would like to devote all of this bulletin to a single event, one which has disturbed very many people both here and abroad. I refer to the incursion two days ago by a still unidentified submarine into Russia's territorial waters. This fact was confirmed today by Rear Admiral Valeriy Aleksin, chief navigator of the CIS Navy. In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he said that the foreign submarine was discovered by ships of the Northern Fleet on 25 March on the approaches to Kola Bay, and it was without question within Russian territorial waters.

Well, this event gives rise to many questions both military and political. I will not risk an incursion into naval affairs, but will concentrate on the political aspect. How should we understand the incursion of a foreign submarine into our waters? I pose this question to my colleague, commentator Viktor Levin.

[Levin] Although the nationality of the submarine discovered in our waters two days ago is not yet absolutely clear, the nuclear submarine—the Navy has concluded that it was undoubtedly a nuclear one—it is most likely, and here I once again cite the competent opinion of Admiral Aleksin, that it was U.S. or British.

Let us recall the 11 February incident, when in approximately the same region—11 miles to the north—there was a collision between one of our submarines and the U.S. Baton Rouge. If we then add the 19 February statement by U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney that the United States does not intend to alter the nature of its naval operations in the Barents Sea, it is clear that certain conclusions, if not the submarine itself, float to the surface.

I understand that military men—be they American or Russian—are given specific tasks and are obliged in the light of these tasks to ensure the security of the country. By all accounts, universal and total disarmament will be very slow in coming. But at the same time, military policy cannot diverge from the overall political course and it certainly should not contradict it.

To quote an article in THE WASHINGTON POST, the Bush administration has just decided to start drawing up a solid program to aid the profound and risky that which have begun in Russia. It is not a matter of economics, THE WASHINGTON POST stresses, but of the need to prevent this century's most important democratic revolution from failing. It would seem that the Americans have finally understood that the success of the democratic transformations in Russia are to their advantage also, because this opens up the path to a stable world, which promises vast benefits from the ending of the arms race, alone.

Meanwhile, the left hand literally does not know what the right one is doing, and sends submarines into our waters. This is grist to the mill not of democracy but of the forces that dream of reviving confrontation as the basis for restoring the former ideologized, totalitarian regime. It is impossible not to see that for the red-browns [communist-fascists], who are relying on a certain section of the military-industrial complex, these submarines are an absolute gift. Surely the Americans do not want these people to return to power?

[Ptashnikov] Viktor Nikolayevich, you mentioned our military- industrial complex. I would like to consider the U.S. military- industrial complex. Do you not think that it is clearly not enraptured by the end of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union because this threatens them with a loss of allocations and very profitable orders?

[Levin] You are saying that the Americans have their own Baklanovs and Makashovs?

[Ptashnikov] To a certain extent, yes.

[Levin] I do not doubt that they have. But the two nations—the American and the Russian nations—must understand that these people are capable of burning down the house in order to cook their omelets. Therefore, they should be kept as far away as possible from the matches. At present, Makashov can only stage rallies. Well, let him do that. But his American counterpart seems to be still in command of forces. The Americans should understand that playing with fire is no less dangerous for them than it is for us. Democracy and militaristic adventurism are incompatible at all latitudes.

[Ptashnikov] It only remains for me to add that the U.S. Defense Department has already begun an investigation into the reports that a foreign submarine violated our territorial waters. However, it must be admitted that to date the Pentagon has not officially confirmed or denied that this submarine was American.

Armed Forces Deputy Ends 4-Day Visit to Sweden

LD2703215192 Moscow TASS in English 2102 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Stockholm, March 27—The first deputy commander-in-chief of the CIS Armed Forces, Colonel-General Bronislav Omelichev, during his four-day working visit to Sweden discussed a wide range of questions, including military policy of states under the conditions of radical changes in Europe and development of contacts between representatives of armed forces. During the visit, which ended today, Bronislav Omelichev met the commander-in-chief of the Swedish Armed Forces, General Bengt Gustafsson, visited the defence headquarter, the "Swea" military unit and the "Swedish Ordinance" military concern.

Addressing cadets of Swedish military academy and officials from the foreign policy institute, Colonel-General Omelichev dwelled on the reforms of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union and the Unified Armed Forces of the CIS, and measures for limitation and reduction of armaments.

New Euro-Atlantic Association Formed

LD2703192992 Moscow TASS in English 1443 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, March 27 TASS—An Association of Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, "for human freedom and security", has been set up here today by public, cultural and economic organizations from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic states, Western Europe and the

United States, as well as European and Atlantic institutes, public figures and politicians.

The association aims to adjust non-governmental interaction between states, organizations, groups of people or individuals wishing to contribute to the creation of political, cultural and humanitarian Euro-Atlantic space.

North Atlantic Assembly Secretary-General Peter Corterier, deputy head of the Russian Parliamentary Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Yevgeniy Ambartsymov, Director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of State and Law Boris Topornin and chairman of the Europarliament's Human Rights sub-committee Kean Coates were elected heads of the association.

Deputy NATO Foreign Relations Department Director Guillaume Parmantier welcomed the constituent meeting on behalf of NATO. North Atlantic Treaty Association, scientists and politicians from Great Britain, Germany, Italy, the United States and France also sent their greetings to the new institution.

Yakovlev's Predictions on CIS Fate Cited

PM2703163592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 92 p 3

[Correspondent N. Tsvetkov report: "A.N. Yakovlev's Gloomy Forecasts"]

[Text] Tokyo—"Not even in a bad dream did I personally dream of the possible emergence of the CIS," A.N. Yakovlev, vice president of the "Gorbachev Foundation," said on addressing the Tokyo Press Club. "Not that anyone asked me, as a citizen, about this. Three people met somewhere there in a forest and decided that the Soviet Union did not exist. The Belovezhskaya agreement does not stand up to criticism from the juridical or moral viewpoint. But it is a reality, and it is silly to fight against this reality."

Aleksandr Nikolayevich, according to him, wishes the CIS success. But for the time being the majority of the presidents have not taken pleasure in power. They are all temporary people. Two are no longer there, and in 18-24 months' time they will all have been replaced, with the possible exception of Nazarbayev.

The Russian Government will very soon be removed—at the Congress of People's Deputies which opens 6 April—unless Yeltsin himself does this even sooner.

According to Yakovlev's prognosis, things will not get as far as the breakup of Russia. Although the dangerous upsurge of nationalism—the ideology of disintegration—must not be underestimated.

The speaker urged his audience to take a far more serious view than now of events in our country. The West paid a high price to defeat fascism. It does not want to pay for the destruction of communism. Then it would not have to sprinkle its head with ashes. It is a question not of dollar assistance but of including Russia in the world division of labor. So that people look on it not as a poor relation but as an equal partner.

Commonwealth

Further on Interparliamentary Conference

Documents Signed

LD2703141692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1330 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Report by KAZTAG-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 27 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The consultative conference of the parliaments of the CIS countries ended here on 27 March with the signing of documents which were jointly worked out.

An agreement on an interparliamentary assembly of the CIS member states was signed by representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

An agreement on cooperation between the commissions and committees of the Supreme Soviets has been sealed by the signatures of the delegations of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. A protocol on developing a draft statute on an interparliamentary news-and-information service was also signed.

As far as a protocol on a conference on cooperation in questions of finance and credit policy is concerned, it was signed by Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

The heads of parliaments reached agreement in principle to hold the next consultative conference this summer at Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Interparliamentary Assembly Formed

LD2703220592 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Alma-Ata March 27 ITAR-TASS—An agreement to form an interparliamentary assembly of member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was signed today in Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, by heads of parliaments of seven CIS member- states. The representatives of the Supreme Soviets of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan signed the document.

The interparliamentary assembly of the CIS member-states will be a consultative institution for discussion on questions and consideration of draft documents of common interest. It will be formed of parliamentary delegations of the participating countries. But parliaments of the CIS countries will independently decide the composition and powers of parliamentary delegations and their heads as well.

The interparliamentary assembly will have the right to discuss political and socio-economic questions, consider questions of parliamentary cooperation, work out and direct proposals to parliaments, to the council of heads of states and the council of heads of governments of CIS member-states. A provision has been made to form working bodies for execution of powers.

Decisions on questions under discussion in the interparliamentary assembly will be taken on the basis of common consent. Decisions will be taken in the form of statements, appeals, recommendations and proposals. The assembly will also work out recommendatory legislations on questions of common interests. Plenary sessions of the assembly are expected to be held not less than twice a year in Minsk or, if necessary, in capitals of member countries signatory to the agreement.

The agreement will be open to the Supreme Soviets of other CIS member-states for signing. It will come into force after a minimum of three Supreme Soviets sign it and inform the depositary about the approval of the agreement.

For those Supreme Soviets (parliaments), which have signed and approved the agreement later, it will come into force from the day of informing the depositary of their approval.

Ukraine Opposes Assembly

PM2903172092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Vladimir Ardayev report: "Ukraine Is 'in Favor' in General, But 'Against' Assembly]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The second conference of heads of CIS Supreme Soviets and parliaments has ended in Alma-Ata.

Seven delegations participating in the conference, with the exception of Ukraine, came out "in favor" on the main question—the setting up of an Interparliamentary Assembly. As Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman I. Plyushch explained to journalists, his delegation is inclined to regard the Assembly as a representative body rather than a working body. Whereas a permanent consultative conference of leaders of the CIS countries' parliaments is, in the opinion of Ukrainian parliamentarians, a wholly adequate working body for the coordination of parliaments' activity. Thus, the Ukrainians believe, there is no need to set up a "third tier" of the suprastate superstructure when the second already exists.

Judging by the tone of the press conference held after the signing of joint documents, Ukraine's position was received with understanding by the conference participants, although this did not affect the results of the signing of documents.

A minor furor blew up, admittedly, as a result of a question put by one Alma-Ata journalist to R. Khasbulatov: How long will Russia go on creating a strained situation in the republics with regard to the cash supply? The question was prompted by the announcement on the eve of the press conference by Z. Fedotova, deputy chairman of the Republic of Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet, that the RSFSR is allegedly taking from the republics, in payment for the printing of each consignment of cash, at least 21 percent of the sum ordered. The speaker of the Russian parliament replied that he knows nothing about such cases and that according to his information Russia retains from the republics for each emission no more than it costs for purely technical reasons—the cost of paper, ink, etc. Nonetheless, the question, which has been raised repeatedly in Kazakhstan and is bandied about whenever the problem of switching to their own currency is discussed, never got answered.

Kazakh Speaker Says Meeting Successful

LD2703172492 Moscow TASS in English 1643 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Alma-Ata March 27 TASS—Kazakhstan Parliamentary Speaker Serikbolsyn Abdildin has described the meeting of the parliamentary leaders of the Commonwealth states as successful.

He warned against dramatising Ukraine's decision to abstain from signing an agreement on an inter-parliamentary assembly.

Ivan Plyusch, Ukrainian parliamentary speaker, said Ukraine realises the need for inter-parliamentary discussions, but believes they could be easily replaced by regular meetings of representatives of the parliamentary commissions and committees. He expressed doubt about the assembly's effectiveness.

Azerbaijan, which was represented by observers since its parliament has not yet approved the republic's integration in the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed two documents adopted at the meeting, including an agreement on cooperation between the parliamentary commissions and committees of the Commonwealth states and an agreement on inter-parliamentary information network.

The participants agreed to hold their next meeting in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, at the end of June or the beginning of July.

Khasbulatov Sees No 'Confrontation'

LD2903092692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1506 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Excerpt] Moscow—Ruslan Khasbulatov refuted a supposition that a confrontation can arise between the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries and Councils of the CIS states' and governments' heads.

If we do not cooperate, nor support them in right undertakings, they will not be able to carry out the integration process as a whole, that is why it is pointless to speak of contradictions, Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation's Supreme Council, told PF [POSTFACTUM] on March 27 after conclusion of the consultative meeting of chairmen of Supreme Councils (parliaments) of the CIS countries in Alma-Ata.

According to him, all the structures of CIS have a common aim, i.e. to achieve harmony, integration, accord, coordination of actions. Through setting up of institutions of the kind, we minimize a possibility of confrontation, as they allow us to efficiently remove possible contradictions between the states, said the chairman of the Russian Federation's Supreme Council.

Chairmen of Supreme Councils of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, deputies chairmen of Supreme Councils of Belarus and Uzbekistan, deputy chairman of the committee on legislation of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan took part in the meeting. Azerbaijan was represented by an observer in the person the chairman of the commission of Azerbaijan's Supreme Council on refugees and communications with Azeri who live in other republics. Ruslan Khasbulatov says that he hopes that other states which wish to live in peace, to solve problems of their peoples, to fulfil in harmony political and economic reforms and which strive to civilized norms in the international and domestic life will join the work of the consultative meeting of chairmen of Supreme Councils (parliaments). [passage omitted]

Military

Commander Cited on Future of Military Aviation

LD2703230292 Moscow TASS in English 2149 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS—Russia preserves a rather powerful group of military aviation, and the transfer of part of the air force, stationed on territory of some republics, under national jurisdiction was not a catastrophe for its combatability, CIS Air Force Commander Aviation Colonel-General Petr Deynekin told ITAR- TASS on Friday [27 March].

A total of 85 per cent of plants and enterprises of the aviation industry are located on Russian territory, including the facilities where the Ruslan aircraft and the MiG-29 and SU-27 fighters are produced.

"No matter what happens, Russia remains a powerful aviation state, and I have no doubts its air fleet will 'gain altitude'," said the general.

Touching on the situation with the air force in Ukraine, Deynekin noted "the formations, which are powerful and highly manoeuvrable means, are unilaterally included in the national air force. These are the 6th Division of Military-Transportation Aviation with the air base headquarters in Melitopol and the 7th Division with the headquarters in Krivoy Rog.

"All in all, the grouping includes 200 IL-76 modern cargo aircraft out of the 450 the CIS has. Until recently, no one doubted they are part of the Commonwealth strategic forces.

"However, on February 13 commander of the 106th Heavy Bombers Aviation Division Major-General Mikhail Bashkirov administered the oath to the 409th Aviation regiment of tanker aircraft, the headquarters of which is located at the Uzin airport.

"This came as a surprise to the CIS air force command and, in the opinion of the commander, complicated the situation in military collectives, since the majority of crew commanders of the air- offensive carrier aircraft regiment refused from taking the Ukrainian oath and expressed their non-confidence to the division commander," he said.

Asked whether nuclear ammunition stored in Uzin poses a certain threat in view of its possible unauthorized use, the CIS air force commander stressed: "It is absolutely impossible since the very system of corresponding signals passage and the mechanism of preparations of aviation complexes for combat use exclude any unauthorized actions."

In addition, after Boris Yeltsin's statement to the effect that our nuclear warheads will not be oriented towards U.S. territory, some elements of the electronic "stuff" of missiles and aircraft were removed from the Uzin base to Russia to the control posts, to which the division is subordinated under the staff structure.

These are complexes of flight mission carriers for missiles and cassettes providing for the aircraft getting to the area of separation of nuclear ammunition. All other forces of the long- range aviation in Ukraine, staying under reliable control of corresponding headquarters, are in complete combat readiness.

"I am convinced the Uzin conflict can be solved with the minimum losses for people. I have long ago suggested to use the Uzin grouping so that pilots and the technical staff remained servicemen, instead of socially unprotected and deprived people, without changing airfields of their dislocation.

"Unfortunately, no accord has been reached. Moreover, the situation began to deteriorate. On Friday night they brought me a document saying that generals, officers and commanders, who do not take the oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people, will be removed before April 6, and their place will be taken by officials 'capable of introducing order of the manual'."

Does it mean the negotiations are in deadend? The commander believes it is still early to speak about it. A meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian military command has been scheduled for Tuesday. Whether or not it will be held is up to Kiev colleagues.

The CIS Allied Armed Forces' Supreme Command is also preparing draft documents that at the level of Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk, as well as Burbulis and Fokin may determine the fate of the Navy and the naval carrier, long-range and military-transportation aviation stationed on Ukrainian territory.

"I believe in a possibility of mutually acceptable compromises," General Deynekin said in conclusion.

Russia-Ukraine Friction Over Air Force Eyed

PM2703154792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 92 p 1

[Article by correspondent Colonel A. Andryushkov: "It Appears Cold War Between Russia and Ukraine Could Become a Bitter Reality. Concerning a By No Means Private Conflict"]

[Text] That we should come to this. The emotions raging over the division of ground forces and naval forces have gone skyhigh. There is trouble at the moment in the skies above the CIS. Not because of the roar of aircraft turbines, but because of the chill silence, the tense expectation: What will become of the aircraft tomorrow?

The 12 December 1991 decree no. 4 of the Ukrainian president "On the Ukrainian Armed Forces" says that all air force units on Ukrainian territory are subordinate to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. Moscow tacitly accepted this at the time, but made the reasonable suggestion that long-range and military transport aircraft units should not be divided. They are strategic forces and are the common property of all CIS states. Only when united, rather than fragmented, can they carry out their specific tasks of airlifting troops and hardware and carrying out long-range missile strikes, and, in peacetime, giving aid to people in areas where there have been natural disasters, delivering national economic freight and humanitarian aid, and, in the event of aggression, repulsing it.

The presidents and the military both agreed that the strategic forces must not be split up. That was what was said. In reality the picture is different. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry did not overlook either the long-distance or the transport aircraft. It became compulsory for strategic airmen to swear an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people. The CIS Air Force command did not stand in its way.

"I believe it is a matter for each person's conscience," Colonel General of Aviation Petr Deynekin, commander of the CIS Air Force, said. "But strategic and military transport aircraft actions need to be led by a single command and control organ. It need not be in Moscow."

Colonel General of Aviation Petr Morozov, Ukrainian defense minister, who signed on 20 March the "Appeal to the members of the Ukrainian Air Force," evidently thinks differently. The appeal says, in particular: "Representatives of the top leadership of the former USSR Defense Ministry are continuing to interfere in matters to do with the life and activities of forces stationed in Ukraine.

"The CIS Air Force command, headed by Colonel General of Aviation P. Deynekin (evidently the latest trend at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry is to make personal remarks in open letters to subordinates—A. Andryushkov), has been particularly active in this respect.

"...The CIS Air Force command is still trying to command forces that are effectively under the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

"...All this leads one to think that the CIS Air Force command is intent on seizing the aircraft and undermining the combat readiness of the Ukrainian Air Force and is placing people in a position where they are not defended by the state.

"At this difficult time for Ukraine and its young armed forces I am appealing to you, military airmen, in the firm belief that the oath of loyalty you swore to Ukraine will be carried out, that airmen will not allow the aircraft pool to be dispersed and will preserve the combat readiness of the Ukrainian Air Force."

When I read this message I wondered whether someone else was guiding Colonel General of Aviation K. Morozov's pen.

"My interference with airforce command in Ukraine," P. Deynekin said, "consists in coordinating the actions of military transport aircraft units ferrying people out of the Transcaucasus. In only the first three months of the year more than 5,300 people were brought out, a good half of them to the Ukraine, where they live. Indeed, military transport aircraft stationed in Zaporozhye and Krivoy Rog have to be used, because there are actually around 200 modern Ilyushin transport aircraft in Ukraine. As for suggestions that I am callous, that is untrue too. On 27 February the Russian president issued a decree authorizing the Air Force to sell 1,600 items of aircraft equipment abroad. The plan is to use the money from this for two main purposes: construction of housing for airmen living on the territory of all the Commonwealth states and development of a home aircraft industry—but transport aircraft, not military..."

While the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and CIS Air Force command were exchanging coded "compliments" the airmen themselves, spread around the airfields from Lvov to Zaporozhye, could wait no longer and sent letters to the CIS Joint Armed Forces command beseeching it to come and sort things out, to help them decide how to carry on, whom to serve.

Colonel General of Aviation P. Deynekin, commander of the CIS Air Force, received instructions to fly to stategic air force units in Ukraine. He sent the Ukrainian Defense minister a telegram on 21 March: "I am informing you that on 24 of March I intend to fly by the following route: Chkalovskiy-Melitopol-Krivoy Rog-Poltava-Uzin-Lvov-Kiev-Chkalovskiy to look at the situation in the forces."

The reply, signed by Lieutenant General Zhivitsa, chief of the Ukrainian Armed Foirces main staff, was not long in coming: "To Colonel General of Aviation P.S. Deynekin. Flights cannot be made to another state's airfields... Since the list drawn up by Ukraine of Air Force units that form part of the strategic forces has not been agreed (it was on this matter that Deynekin was flying to Ukraine—A. Andryushkov), your presence among the Ukrainian armed forces is inadvisable."

The CIS Air Force commander was not allowed to enter Ukrainian skies. Colonel General of Aviation V. Yefanov, commander of CIS military transport aviation, was also prohibited from visiting units. In order, apparently, to assert its omnipotence, at 0800 hours on 25 March the Ukrainian defense ministry also prohibited an international commission operating under UN auspices monitoring progress in the elimination of strategic missiles from entering the republic's skies. It was only after it was explained by the air force central command post that it would result in an international scandal that Lieutenant General V. Vasilyev permitted 10 experts from the United States and six specialists from the CIS to fly to Odessa.

But Colonel General of Aviation P. Deynekin, commander of the CIS Air Force, had to turn to journalists from a number of newspapers and from television for help in order to be able to get to Ukraine and visit long-range aviation units.

"Perhaps General Morozov will believe you," Deynekin said, "that it is not a Powers or a Rust that is flying to visit you, that it is not agent from a hostile state..."

It was sardonic humor from the CIS Air Force commander. But even with journalists on board the Tu-134 passenger aircraft he did not immediately get the OK to take off. We got off the ground three hours behind schedule, landing at the airfield of the "rebel division" (the Ukrainian media's name for the airmen of the strategic unit) in Uzin.

More about the conversation at the officers' meeting there and at Poltava another time. It was recorded on dictaphones and on film by Russian and Ukrainian journalists. One thing I do not understand: Why did Colonel General of Aviation K. Morozov not express a desire to hear from the horse's mouth about the state of affairs in the units of the CIS Armed Forces' most important combat component—strategic aviation? Is there actually going to be a cold war in the Commonwealth's skies, grounding aircraft and ruining thousands of human lives?

Conflict Deepens in Uzhin

PM2703164092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 92 p 2

[A. Krayniy report: "Chronicle of Mutinous Bomber. What Politicians Had Been Seeking for So Long Has Happened—the Army Has Split"]

[Text] **"I hereby notify you: On 25 March 1992 Colonel General of Aviation P. Deynekin, commander of the Air Force, is going to the 13th and 15th Heavy Bomber Air Guards Divisions and the 106th Heavy Bomber Air Division on business, and Col. Gen. of Aviation V. Yefanov is going to the 6th and 7th Military Transport Air Divisions.**

"Please make provision for their flight through your airspace.

"[Signed] Deynekin."

"To Col. Gen. Deynekin.

"A flight to another state's airfields cannot be 'notified.' In accordance with the 1 December 1991 Decree of the Ukrainian President 'On the Ukrainian Armed Forces,' all Air Force formations on Ukrainian territory are subordinate to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. Since the list defined by Ukraine of Air Force units and combined units forming part of the strategic forces has not been agreed upon, your presence among troops of the Ukrainian Armed Forces is not expedient.

"[Signed] Lieutenant Gen. Zhivitsa, chief of the Main Staff."

On 24 March Gen. Petr Deynekin spent half the day waiting at Chkalovskaya Airfield but never received the "go-ahead" to take off. On 25 March, protected not by fighter escorts but by the invited press (clearly, the press was pro-Russian from Moscow and had been bought), he came to Chkalovskaya again.

From KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's file:

The 106th Heavy Bomber Division named for the 60th Anniversary of the USSR is a strategic offensive force grouping of the Air Force High Command and one of the best in long-range aviation. It consists of two regiments of TU-95ms bombers (each with 24 aircraft, stationed at Uzin in Kiev Oblast and at Mozdok in the North Caucasus), as well as a regiment of IL-78 tanker aircraft (Uzin) and a transport squadron. The division's commander is Major General of Aviation Mikhail Bashkirov, a graduate of the General Staff Academy and one of the coauthors of the record TU-95 flight.

The most important thing for Deynekin was Uzin, and, to run ahead of our story, he also visited Poltava. The calm and smiling Deynekin swore through his teeth, but he categorically refused my proposal to fly ("They won't actually shoot us down!"): "We are not pioneers or partisans." He did not wish to act like [Ukrainian Defense Minister] Morozov, even though the commander did have and still has the opportunity to do so: While refusing to receive Deynekin and military transport aviation commander Yefanov, at the same time the Ukrainian defense minister was requesting permission to fly and land at Sheremetyevo-2 en route for Brussels. But this is by the by.

What happened in the division? First, at an officers' assembly, they decided not to take the oath; Bashkirov chaired that assembly. Then, 13 February, just before the meeting of the CIS leaders, Bashkirov issued the order to take the oath. As in the well-known anecdote among the troops: Now fight, now as you were. The 409th Tanker Regiment headed by its commander, Col. Kuznetsov, took the oath. The deed was done hastily, at night. An oath of loyalty to the people of Ukraine was sworn both by most of the division's command and by 25 percent of the commanders of TU-95ms aircraft. But 75 percent—and, naturally, the Mozdok regiment, which would appear to have nothing to do with this, because otherwise Ukraine would end up with its own regiment in the North Caucasus (I feel that we will break up in the end)—did not take the oath. As a result, the division split. I could be mistaken, but the impression was created at Deynekin's meeting with commanders of combat and transport aircraft that the demarcation was not along the lines of the Russian-Ukrainian border but along the lines of who flies which aircraft. The transport airmen believe, not without grounds, that they will be able to live comfortably under market conditions, with commercial shipments, while pilots of combat aircraft have nothing to transport but cruise missiles with nuclear warheads.

From KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's file:

The TU-95ms heavy bomber can carry up to 15 cruise missiles. TU-95's are stationed at Uzin and have a somewhat smaller potential. But both cruise missiles and nuclear warheads for them are in the immediate proximity of the airfield.

Deynekin:

"We believed that both we and Ukraine held an unambiguous opinion of strategic aviation. But the Ukrainian Defense Ministry evidently has different views. By trying to detach the tanker regiment from the division and privatize two military transport air divisions (Melitopol and Krivoy Rog), the Ukrainian Defense Ministry is grossly violating the Minsk accords. Pardon my unparliamentary language, but bombers without tankers are like eunuchs.

"In the past I could not—I did not have the moral right to—promise you and the entire flight and technical personnel that I would resolve urgent social problems, the most acute of which is housing. Now I can. First, under a decision of the Russian president, $9 billion is being invested in the aviation industry. This is a mighty injection which will enable us not only and not so much to renew the aircraft pool as to convert your division, for example, into a transport one. Second, we have been given permission to sell aircraft abroad free of tax."

Maj. Viktor Korolev:

"The division has been messed up, and it was Bashkirov who messed it up. He has no right to lead us. We have already sworn an oath once."

Lt. Col. Aleksandr Drozdov:

"We do not fly and cannot hold tactical air exercises because there is no fuel, the personnel's pay is constantly being withheld, and 20 percent live in apartments."

Detachment Commander Gennadiy Demushkin:

"As a detachment commander, I lead a team which has taken an oath of loyalty to Ukraine. Why? What am I supposed to do, tell them to swear allegiance to the sergeant?"

Indeed—what can he do? There is a saying in Ukraine: The masters fight, but the boys get their topknots pulled. The boys do not understand that neither Commander Deynekin nor Minister Morozov can resolve the problem. Only the presidents can, but they, so it turns out, have not spoken to each other by telephone for a month. I would like to remind the presidents that there are nuclear warheads for cruise missiles there, at Uzin in Kiev Oblast, and it looks as if the division, or rather its two regiments, will be at loggerheads any moment now.

CIS Military To Switch to Contract Service

OW2703200592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "INTERFAX" learned that the Commonwealth United Armed Forces Friday passed a packet of documents on adopting a contract system for the formation of units. Draftees will be inducted on a contractual basis beginning this Spring. A decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the adoption of the system was prepared. In addition the Supreme Soviet will soon pass a law on military service which will contain the details of the transition to a contract system.

Servicemen will receive from 1300 to 6-8 thousand rubles monthly depending on where they serve.

Transcaucasus Troops Not To Be Withdrawn

LD2703213392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1900 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The troops will not be withdrawn from the Transcaucasus, the deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, Lt- General Beppayev, has told a SNARK correspondent. This is how he reacted to the statement by Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy on the need for the withdrawal of the army from the region in the coming two to thee weeks.

Russia Does Not Seek Own Strategic Forces Yet

PM2903171492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "CIS Generals Decide How to Organize the Russian Army"]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the collegium of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command was held 27 March. The collegium examined questions relating to the practical implementation of the Russian president's decree on the formation of the Russian Defense Ministry and Russian Federation Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

As Lieutenant General Valeriy Manilov, chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Information Directorate, stated at a meeting with journalists, Russia does not yet aim to create strategic forces, as the CIS has such forces today. But following the withdrawal of such troops from the territory of Ukraine and Belarus a need could naturally arise for Russia to fulfill strategic tasks too.

International Affairs

More on Commission Session on U.S. Servicemen

Further on Yeltsin Advisor Remarks

AU2703183792 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Chris Boian report]

[Text] Moscow, March 27 (AFP)—Servicemen who "defected" from the Vietnam War, along with U.S. soldiers from other conflicts since World War II, lived and could still be residing in the former Soviet Union, Russian and U.S. officials said Friday [27 March].

General Dmitriy Volkogonov, military advisor to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, disclosed in one example that four U.S. servicemen stationed aboard an aircraft carrier during the Vietnam War were brought to the former Soviet Union by the KGB and used for propaganda purposes.

The revelations, made at a news conference here following the first session of a new joint U.S.-Russian commission on missing soldiers, marked the first official admission by Moscow that U.S. servicemen from Vietnam were in contact with the KGB in the former Soviet Union. The admissions were also likely to raise new questions on how many U.S. serviceman lived in the Soviet Union, either against their will or voluntarily, following conflicts before and during the Cold War and whether any of them are still alive here.

Volkogonov, in several unexpected disclosures, said he was aware of many cases where U.S. servicemen in Nazi concentration camps liberated by Soviet forces near the end of World War II were mistakenly imprisoned in Soviet camps in central Russia. Most of the more than 22,000 U.S. nationals in the camps were repatriated but a number of them who did not possess identification documents and who had Russian, Ukrainian or Jewish last names were thought to have been fighting with Hitler's forces under a Russian general, Vlasov.

Volkogonov said the four U.S. servicemen stationed aboard the aircraft carrier during the Vietnam War were brought back to the Soviet Union "with the help of the KGB." "They were used for purposes of a propaganda show... attempts were made to recruit their services," Volkogonov said, adding that records showed they had since been repatriated.

A former top KGB official, Oleg Kalugin, has asserted that at least three U.S. Vietnam prisoners of war were questioned by the KGB but Malcolm Toon, a former U.S. ambassador to Moscow and head of the U.S. side of the joint commission, said that "some of his allegations were exaggerated."

The joint commission was set up for the two sides to exchange information on U.S. and ex-Soviet POW's and MIA's, including Soviet soldiers captured during the Afghanistan War, officials said. Its investigations will encompass World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Afghanistan War and a number of "cold war incidents" such as the downing of U.S. spy planes over Soviet territory, a U.S. official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, disclosed for example that in 1958 a U.S. military aircraft with a 13-man crew on a reconnaissance mission was shot down over the former Soviet republic of Armenia. "I'm not sure we have any hard evidence that some of them may still be alive, but we have had good sighting reports," the official said, adding: "There are some lingering questions on what really is the full story." The official admitted that the United States still has "a whole bunch of cases from Vietnam that we can't solve, including a number of direct sightings" of U.S. servicemen and said the Russian official might be able to shed light on some of them.

Volkogonov stated that it had been standard Soviet policy to deny that any U.S. nationals involved in conflicts had lived on Soviet territory.

"We know full-well now that a number of U.S. nationals, due to some circumstance or for some reason or another, were in Soviet territory," he said.

Russian officials on the commission turned over to their U.S. counterparts information on burial sites of U.S. servicemen from World War II and the U.S. side did the same for two Russian nationals who died in the Nuremburg concentration camp.

Volkogonov said some of the U.S. servicemen who served in Soviet prisons were German-Americans who returned to Germany during the war to fight for Hitler's army.

In another case cited by Volkogonov, three U.S. nationals of Slavic origin who served time in Soviet prisons were exchanged for a Soviet intelligence officer. He did not say when the exchange took place.

Joint Commission Ends Session

LD2703212492 Moscow TASS in English 2027 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, March 27 TASS—The United States is satisfied with Russian efforts to find out the fates of U.S. citizens—prisoners of war or missing during and after the Second World War and the wars in Korea and Vietnam, former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union Malcolm Toon told a news conference here today.

The news conference was held upon the completion of a plenary meeting of the joint Russian-U.S. commission on affairs of U.S. POWs and missing.

While working in Moscow, commission members acquainted themselves with archive materials that may clarify the fate of U.S. citizens missing in the wars, determined information categories necessary for their search and elaborated a plan for further actions.

In particular, they decided to create a standing group in Moscow to work between plenary meetings.

The Russian side granted the U.S. representatives a number of archive materials, clarifying the fate of some U.S. citizens after the Second World War, as well as materials on eight U.S. citizens buried on territory of the former Soviet Union.

The Americans, in their turn, passed over archive materials on two Russian officers who died in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War.

The plenary meeting decided to set up within the framework of the joint commission a working group on Soviet citizens killed or missing in Afghanistan. In particular, Toon said the U.S. side will do its best to find out the fates of these people, and passed over materials on several servicemen to confirm the U.S. goodwill.

Joint commission participants expressed the hope for fruitful and necessary for Russian and U.S. citizens cooperation in future, as well as for the success of this noble work.

The next plenary meeting of the Russian-U.S. commission is expected to be held in May, 1992.

INTERFAX Reports Submarine Sales to Iran

LD2703232992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A few days ago the General Staff of the Navy hastened to deny a report about the sale of three submarines to Iran. INTERFAX today confirmed this fact. It is claimed by a source in the naval circles in Moscow that it is a matter of modern diesel submarines codenamed Kilo by NATO. The deal was concluded by Russia's Ministry of External Economic Relations. The submarines destined for Iran are in the possession of the Baltic Fleet. At present crews are being selected from the Fleet's naval personnel to deliver them to Iran, since the Iranians do not trust themselves yet to manage them independently.

Government Accelerates Yeltsin's Kurile Plan

OW3003103392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of experts of the CIS Armed Forces' General Staff is making a tour of the South Kuril islands. According to military sources, the visit is connected with the implementation of the 5-stage plan for the settlement of the territorial conflict with Japan, advanced by Boris Yeltsin in January 1991. The second provision of this plan envisages the demilitarization of the islands of Kunashir, Iturup, Shikotan and Khabomai.

The Russian military quarters report that a sub-machine gun and artillery division and a fighter regiment consisting of 28 MiG-23 planes are presently located in the South Kuril islands.

A high-ranking officer in the CIS Command said that following Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's talks in Tokyo, and in view of Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan, scheduled for September, measures are being taken to accelerate the implementation of the president-proposed plan.

Besides the demilitarization of the islands, this plan includes the official recognition by Russia of the territorial problem in Russian-Japanese relations, the proclamation of the islands a zone of free entrepreneurship, the conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan and the settlement of the territorial dispute by a new generation of politicians 15 to 20 years later.

The last provision has assumed clearer contours lately in view of the Russian leaders' statement that the islands of Shikotan and Khabomai might be passed to Japan in case Tokyo and Moscow sign a peace treaty.

More on Yeltsin's Kurile Plan

OW3003133792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 92

["Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by diplomatic correspondent M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of experts from the General Staff of the CIS Armed Forces is visiting the South Kurile islands. According to military sources, the visit is connected with the implementation of the 5-stage plan for settling the territorial dispute between Russia and Japan advanced by Boris Yeltsin in January of 1991. The 2nd point of the plan provides for demilitarizing the islands of Kunashari, Etorufu, Shikotan and Habomai.

According to information DP ["Diplomatic Panorama"] received from authoritative representatives of Russian military circles, currently an artillery division with machineguns and a regiment comprising 28 MiG-23 fighter planes are deployed on the islands of the South Kurile chain.

As a senior officer from the command of the CIS Armed Forces said, following last week's talks held in Tokyo by Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and on the threshold of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan scheduled for September, there are instructions to "step up the implementation" of the Russian president's plan. Apart from demilitarization, the plan provides for Russia's officially recognizing the territorial dispute in its relations with

Japan, for proclaiming the islands a zone of free enterprise, for signing a peace treaty with Japan and for "resolving the territorial dispute in 15 to 20 years' time by the new generation of politicians".

However the latter point was concretized recently in connection with the fact that Russia's leadership announced the possibility of transferring the Shikotan and Habomai islands to Japan if a peace treaty is signed with Tokyo in conformity with the 1956 Soviet-Japanese declaration.

In accordance with a document worked out by the leading officials of the CIS armed forces DP's correspondent received access to, "the Government of Russia, in its endeavours to resolve economic problems with Japan's aid, is compelled to search for the ways out of the deadlock." Nevertheless there are several circumstances which, according to the Russian military, make it impossible for the Russian leadership to resolve the issue of "Northern territories" quickly. According to the document, they include the complexity of the political situation in Russia, unpreparedness of public opinion in the country as a whole and above all locally, on the Kurile Islands, on Sakhalin and in the Pacific Maritime Territory, plus strong opposition in Russia's parliament "which might block the ratification of a treaty on transferring islands to Japan".

As the document says, "a more profound analysis has shown that to transfer islands to Japan under the circumstances might lead to dividing Russia itself territorially... It's impossible not to take into account the movement for establishing a Far Eastern republic which is on the rise amid the population in the east of the Russian Federation. The efforts to speed up solution to the issue of transferring the South Kurile islands to Japan might stimulate the endeavours to establish such a republic, up to its subsequent secession from Russia".

Nevertheless, according to the document, "Russia gradually lays foundations for a closening of ties between the population of South Kurile islands and that of Hokkaido. With this aim in view the residents of South Kuriles are allowed to visit Japan and the residents of Hokkaido the South Kurile islands without visas. The flow of businessmen from Russia's European part to the South Kuriles is on the rise..." "For their part Japanese authorities intensified measures designed to prevent violations of Russia's territorial waters in the area of South Kurile islands. In the past two years such violations have decreased by almost one half: 7794 in 1990 and 5653 in 1991 against 10139 in 1989".

Italian President Cossiga Arrives for Visit

LD2903171592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1438 GMT 29 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 29 March (TASS)—Italian President Francesco Cossiga arrived in Moscow today for an official visit at the invitation of Boris Yeltsin. A meeting between the presidents of Russia and Italy will be held in the Kremlin on 30 March. The program of the visit, which will last until 2 April, also provides for a talk beween the Italian president and Ruslan Khasbulatov, Russian Supreme Soviet chairman. It is expected that Francesco Cossiga will meet Aleskiy II, patriarch of Moscow and all the Russias. The guest is visiting Suzdal (Vladimirskaya Oblast) and St. Petersburg.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs assesses the present visit of Francesco Cossiga to Moscow as a "demonstration of Italy's solidarity with the economic transformations being carried out in Russia."

Meets With Khasbulatov

OW3003114592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov told Italian President Francesco Cossiga on Monday [30 March] that the parliament is the main stabilizing factor in Russia.

Ruslan Khasbulatov said that the popularity of the parliament is growing despite the fact that "we, too, consider ourselves to be responsible for the deteriorating economic situation". Khasbulatov also said that the forthcoming congress of people's deputies will be no easy. "We come out against the habit of searching for enemies, reactionaries and communists," said Khasbulatov. "All those who support democracy, freedom of entrepreneurship and market relations may become our allies," he said.

Francesco Cossiga commended the parliament for its outstanding role in suppressing the state coup last August.

Meets With Yeltsin

LD3003130192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0659 GMT 30 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—An official ceremony was held today in the Georgiyevskiy Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace to mark the meeting of President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and President Francesco Cossiga of the Italian Republic, who is currently visiting Moscow. Boris Yeltsin and Francesco Cossiga greeted one another warmly. The state anthems of the Italian Republic and the Russian Federation were played. The two heads of state then engaged in a short, friendly conversation.

Credits Issue Resolved

LD3003134892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1322 GMT 30 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The problem of the Italian credits earmarked for the former Soviet Union for 1990 has been resolved. They have been reformulated for Russia and have already come into operation. This was stated today in the course of talks in the Kremlin between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Italian President Francesco Cossiga, who is in Moscow on an official visit.

Troop Withdrawal From Mongolia Unchanged

LD2903112892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Dugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 29 TASS—The time-frame for a final withdrawal of the troops of the former Soviet Union, which passed under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, from Mongolia remains unchanged, according to a statement by a spokesman for the Mongolian Foreign Ministry.

The statement, circulated here today, was made in view of reports by a number of news organisations of the country about alleged secret talks on extending the stay of Russia's military units on the country's territory.

According to an arrangement with the government of the former Soviet Union, which was later reaffirmed by the leaders of the Russian Federation, the final withdrawal of Russia's military units from Mongolia will be completed by September 1, 1992, the statement emphasizes.

This was again confirmed at the beginning of this month during the Mongolian prime minister's visit to Moscow. The government's position on that score remains unchanged, the Mongolian diplomat said.

A contingent of Soviet troops had been brought to Mongolia in the 1960s at the request of the then leadership of the country. A withdrawal of the contingent began in the spring of 1989.

According to the command, only logistical units have remained in Mongolia. They have been given an assignment to ensure the dismantling and transportation of equipment and to carry out the necessary ecology-oriented work.

Kozyrev Urges Settlement of Dniester Conflict

LD2803221292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2133 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Dniester region. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry that Russia's head of foreign policy has sent a message to his counterparts in Moldova, Ukraine, and Romania voicing his concern at the worsening situation in the Dniester region. Among other things, it contains an appeal to act in keeping with the quadripartite cease-fire agreement and proposes a series of practical steps to settle the explosive situation in the region.

Russian-Estonian Talks Scheduled for Mid-Apr

LD3003080892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] It has been agreed that talks between Russian and Estonian official delegations will take place in mid-April on the territory of the Estonian Republic. The agenda for the Russian-Estonian meeting is due to include military-political, humanitarian, and legal issues.

Head of Foreign Policy Association Elected

OW2803151592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [28 March], the conference of the Foreign-Policy Association elected Aleksandr Bessmertnykh the Association's new president. Aleksandr Bessmertnykh has replaced Eduard Shevardnadze, who resigned.

The new president's deputies are Yuliy Kvitsinskiy, former Soviet ambassador to West Germany and former deputy-foreign minister of the USSR, and Pavel Akopov, the Association's executive director.

Eduard Shevardnadze has been elected honorary president of the Foreign-Policy Association.

Novaya Zemlya Status Decree Worries Norwegians

PM2903183792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 23 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Norwegian authorities are alarmed by conjectures about the possibility of the resumption of nuclear tests on the Novaya Zemlya archipelago. These conjectures have appeared in the Norwegian press in connection with the decree of President Yeltsin of

Russia on the conferment of federal status on Novaya Zemlya and the procedure for mutual relations with the military.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry has instructed its ambassador to Moscow to clarify details connected with the rumors concerning Novaya Zemlya. It appears that so far the reassurances given by Russian representatives have failed to impress the Norwegians.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin May Submit Own Draft Constitution

MK2803124592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Mar 92 pp 1-2

[Sergey Parkhomenko report under the "Situation" rubric: "Yeltsin Has Criticized Official Russian Draft Constitution. He May Submit His Own Version at the Congress"]

[Text] It can be assumed that when he opened his meeting with deputies from the "Radical Democrats" parliamentary faction Thursday [26 March], Boris Yeltsin warned them about the confidential nature of the discussion they were about to have. Nevertheless....

Marina Salye, one of the faction's coordinators, was the first to let the cat out of the bag. "Boris Yeltsin believes that the draft constitution submitted to the Congress of People's Deputies is a 'socialist' draft and that it would not be sensible to adopt," news agencies reported her as saying. Whereupon other parliamentarians also considered themselves freed from their vow of silence: "The president's draft constitution, which he intends to present in a speech at the Congress, is being finalized and will differ substantially from the 'Rumyantsev' draft," Vladimir Varov announced, for example. Soon afterwards information was even circulated about the intended publication date of the "presidential draft"—3 April.

The piquancy—not to mention the incredible aspect—of the situation lies in the fact that Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin is chairman of the republic's Constitutional Committee which has officially presented parliament with the draft that has been the result of two years' work on its part. Day after day the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has been holding extremely intense debates on this very text, discussing it section by section. Finally, it was this text that was at issue when the Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted the decision to submit the draft constitution for examination by the Congress and recommended that it be adopted on its first reading.

It is no surprise that Constitutional Commission Executive Secretary Oleg Rumyantsev has taken this news from the Kremlin very badly indeed: "In my view, the president has not yet fully absorbed the text of the draft approved by the Constitutional Commission. There are in fact a number of compromise provisions in the text without which it would be impossible to get the draft adopted as a basis by the Congress. At the same time these inevitable compromises did not affect the concept of the draft, which was approved with the direct participation of the president in the fall of 1990. I am alarmed and concerned that some politicians in Yeltsin's entourage are exploiting their 'access' to the president to exert an improper influence on his attitude to the results of the work of the Constitutional Commission, which he still heads. It looks as though our city governors, having tired of the thankless task of providing their capitals with services and amenities, have thrown themselves into a more pleasant activity with alacrity—improving the constitutional and state sphere. The root of the problem is that he is being influenced by representatives of the executive branch on the basis of their own corporate interests. And the legislators' access to the president—which includes the people formulating the constitution—is artificially restricted," he said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

The hint is more than clear. But the "city governors" have no intention of hiding from nobody. Some 100 meters away from the White House, in Moscow City Hall's circular hall, the official presentation of the Russian draft constitution formulated by a group of law professors led by Anatoliy Sobchak took place yesterday. Today NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes a lengthy critical study of the "Rumyantsev" draft—and the list of its authors basically coincides almost exactly with the list of those participating in this action group of jurists. The only missing names are Sergey Alekseyev, whom Anatoliy Sobchak yesterday called the draft constitution's "main workhorse" during the opening of the presentation of the draft, and Yuriy Kalmykov. "We did not have much time, of course, but the history of the Code Napoleon shows that in a short time it is possible to draw up a document that will function for centuries," St. Petersburg's mayor stated.

However, there can be no doubt that another mayor—Gavriil Popov—was directly involved with this unexpected constitutional initiative. "The work was begun following a decision by the leadership of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms," Sergey Stupar, the movement's press secretary, reported. It is not known who currently heads this "leadership."

The authors of the new draft are not hiding their intentions. According to Sobchak, "the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms might itself submit this draft to the Congress in its capacity as a social organization. But there is a chance that this will be done by appealing to people's deputies and other state leaders who support this idea and are entitled to take legislative initiatives." It ultimately remains to be seen whether this state leader will be Russian President Boris Yeltsin in person. "It has not been ruled out that he will use our draft," Sobchak says cautiously. "It is indeed likely to be him," well-informed White House apparatus staffers claim, citing

the numerous consultations that Yeltsin has had with Popov and Sobchak in recent days.

However, the only possibility entertained by Constitutional Commission representatives is that the president will "improve" the draft immediately prior to the Congress, "the official draft, moreover—the one drawn up by the Constitutional Commission—and not some other."

Yeltsin Visits Private Farm Enterprise

MK2803125992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Mar 92 p 2

[Mikhail Karpov report under the "President" rubric: "Yeltsin in Moscow Region. Agriculture Concerns Him No Less Than Politics"]

[Text] Yesterday the president visited the "Interfarm" agricultural enterprise in Istra. After a series of meetings with politicians, this was an entirely logical step, especially as Boris Yeltsin was accompanied by Aleksandr Rutskoy, whom the president has entrusted with looking after agriculture. By this step Yeltsin simultaneously unequivocally refuted the claim that Rutskoy's appointment was made only with the aim of seeking out a position to channel his "vice's" energies. Ordinary citizens, however, can conclude from this that in addition to politics, their elected president is interested in how much they are getting to eat.

However, he may not have been aware that the actual enterprise he was visiting also turned out to be close to Rutskoy. Agricultural complex General Director Vakhtang Makharadze claimed that he created his brainchild mainly by using military construction capacities freed as a result of conversion. He said that he was pleased to see the president, but, contrary to the age-old Russian tradition, he certainly did not intend to request anything from him, although he wanted to show what a free man could do even on land that was not yet free. After all, the land has been leased to the agricultural complex for a 60-year term. Makharadze claimed that if the land had been privately owned, it would have been possible to do far more with it in the three years that he has been the boss here.

"Interfarm's" walls had not been painted for the president's arrival. Yeltsin's press secretary even tried to dissuade journalists from accompanying the president over the entire route of his excursion. But all the same, the owners of "Interfarm" were pursuing their own interest—this is a private enterprise, after all. There is not a lot of land in Istrinskiy Rayon, and it is impossible to say how Tyazhlov, chairman of the Moscow Oblast Soviet Executive Committee, intends to divide it up.

But as is well known, inviting the president is only half the battle. Only one thing shows that the guest's interests coincided with those of his cordial hosts: Yeltsin is consistent even in opposing Yegor Kuzmich [Ligachev], his former colleague of years back, who to the present day is fighting to keep the kolkhoz and sovkhoz system in the Russian countryside.

If we consider this trip along with the president's meetings with leaders of political parties, the young politicians from "New Generation" [Smena], and the radicals, it becomes obvious that Yeltsin is preparing for the Congress of People's Deputies in earnest.

Rutskoy Comments on Liberalization

OW2703170792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy Friday [27 March] visited the agroindustrial complex "Interfarm" in the Moscow district. The complex was created in 1987 and now has a yearly profit of 30 million rubles.

Discussing the problem of food products with the cooperative's leaders, Boris Yeltsin supported lowering taxes on the production cost for basic food products. He said the tax may be lowered to 17% from the current 28%.

The President said that fuel prices will not be freed before June 1. In addition, as Vice President Rutskoy said, prices might not be liberalized but rather increased gradually. Rutskoy said fuel prices may be raised 50% in the first month.

The agricultural industrial complex "Interfarm" plans to begin producing meat products and process vegetable and fruit products as well.

'Psychological Breakthrough' Noted

LD2803020192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] Russian President Boris Yeltsin, accompanied by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and cabinet ministers, visited the private agro-industrial complex Interferma near Moscow today. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, has everything you have seen and heard here added to your optimism or has it, on the contrary, convinced you that land reform has still not begun?

[Yeltsin] Both. The fact is that land reform has still not begun in practice, although the psychological breakthrough has started; people have come to believe that land has to be taken, that it is possible to work on it, that output can be provided. That is the first thing. The second thing is that you have experience, of course. The experience is as yet unique, of course. Industry has invested here, as have the Ministry of Atomic Energy

and others, and the Krasnyy Proletariy works, and of course the managers themselves. They have shown that it is, in general, possible to process all the output at your own enterprise and to be a profitable—even a highly profitable—enterprise. [end recording]

Reduction of Food Tax Proposed

LD3003105392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Begin Yeltsin recording] There will be no free prices for energy resources in the next few months. [end recording]

[Correspondent V. Vinogradov] The Russian president said this during a visit to the Interferma agro-industrial complex. The first lesson he learned from his conversations at the agro-complex was that although the agricultural reforms have not yet begun despite the resolutions, there has been a turning point in the minds of the workers. They understand that they can produce food in any quantity if they want; this agro-complex is an example of this. A further important decision relating directly to agriculture was made there.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Let's reduce part of VAT [value-added tax] on food products, on agricultural food products, animal husbandry or something else. I feel that we have no other way out. [end recording] [video shows Yeltsin talking to journalists and viewing the farm]

Burbulis Continues Anticorruption Discussion

LD2803114892 Moscow ITAR-TASS International Service in Russian 2031 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—This evening a regular meeting of the Standing Interdepartmental Group for the Protection of the Interests of the Individual and Society from Organized Crime was held in the Russian Government building under the chairmanship of Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary and first vice prime minister. Taking part were members of the Russian cabinet and heads of the republic's law and order departments.

Journalists were told after the closed-door session by Vice Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin that a list of priority measures to intensify the fight against corruption was confirmed. Possible approaches and an action program were discussed for the situation regarding selling military property, especially that of the Western Group of Forces. Ways to halt abuses in the sphere of precious metals and stones were discussed. The issue of abuses in connection with the issuing of licenses and quotas for fuels was also examined.

A decision was made to conduct one-time checks on the involvement of officials in commercial structures and the activities of these structures. An ITAR-TASS correspondent discovered that the list of priority measures to intensify the fight against corruption notes the necessity of preparing by May draft laws on civil servants in Russia and on the fight against corruption. It also gives instructions on the development of laws concerning commercial secrets, foreign economic activities in the Russian Federation, and currency regulation.

Draft Law on Armed Forces, Defense Ordered

LD2803170792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1010 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—The State Legal Directorate with the Russian president has been instructed to work out within a month a draft law on the creation of the Russian Armed Forces. On March 27, Aleksandr Kotenkov, deputy head of the State Legal Directorate with the president of the Russian Federation, also told POSTFACTUM that the draft law on Russian Armed Forces is to specify the aim of creation of Russian Armed Forces, their tasks, basic principles of formation, service structure and command bodies. According to Aleksandr Kotenkov, the president of the Russian Federation believes that the law should be brief.

Aleksandr Kotenkov further said that, under a decree by the president of the Russian Federation on creating the defense ministry of the Russian Federation, the State Legal Directorate has also been instructed to work out, within a month, regulations on the defense ministry, elaborate its structure and interim staff arrangements. There are reports that the president of the Russian Federation has appointed First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Government, Russian Federation State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis as head of a commission to deal with the establishment of the Russian defense ministry. Head of the State Legal Directorate Sergey Shakhray and First Deputy Defense Minister of Russia Colonel General Pavel Grachev will supposedly be appointed Burbulis' deputies. Documents for the next CIS summit are being prepared in Moscow. At the May 15 Tashkent CIS summit chief commandment of the CIS United Armed Forces plans to submit for discussion 8-10 draft documents.

In particular, commanders of the CIS Army are drafting an agreement on collective defense of the Commonwealth, an agreement on the principles and procedure following from the USSR-USA treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms, agreements on the reduction of ex-USSR arms and on cooperation in organization of the withdrawal of nuclear arms from Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

Business Union Demands Reform, Party Review

LD2803184292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 28 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] We emphatically insist that despite all price rises, the state should outline a system of priorities for the life-support industries, President of the Russian Union of Industrial Managers and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy stressed in his report about the economic reform. He addressed a session of the board of the International Democratic Reform Movement, held in Moscow today, of which he is a co-chairman.

Igor Smirnov, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Reform Movement, also put forward some proposals, which were recorded in the resolution of the session about the current situation. The Democratic Reform Movement favours the creation of a "new world order on the whole of the territory of the former Soviet Union." it urges all governments to "declare a moratorium on any territorial claims and to ensure equal rights of the native and non-native population" and believes the parliaments of the independent states should immediately start the formation of the Eurasian parliamentary assembly.

Speakers at the session criticised the leadership of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement, created by two co-chairmen—Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. The leaders of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement actually distanced themselves from the international organisation and did not take part in its work. According to Igor Smirnov, the latest statements of its co-chairman Gavriil Popov are at variance with the programme documents of the Democratic Reform Movement. Volskiy urged participants in the session "to work out a definite opinion about the Russian Democratic Reform Movement."

Volskiy Says Yeltsin 'Backs' Demands

OW2803153992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Board of the Movement for Democratic Reforms, which held its conference on Saturday [28 March], urged the Russian Government to make cardinal changes in its economic policies and reorganize the Cabinet.

"The Russian president fully backs these demands," Co-Chairman of the movement and leader of the Union of Russian Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs, Arkadiy Volskiy, told IF [INTERFAX]. Volskiy met with Boris Yeltsin on the eve of the Board's conference.

As an example of the on-going adjustments in the government's policies, Arkadiy Volskiy quoted Boris Yeltsin's decision to put off price rises on oil products, announced during his recent visit to a farm in the Istra district of the Moscow region.

Asked if Boris Yeltsin had ever offered him a leading post in the Cabinet, Arkadiy Volskiy said that he had received many offers of the kind but did not accept any. He noted that in his current capacity he can do a great deal more for the economy.

Addressing the Movement's Board, Volskiy said that retail sales decreased by 50 per cent for January and February. Over the past year, retail prices have risen 11 times, and wholesale prices—12 times. In the past eight weeks, the consumer market decreased by 52 per cent. The production of meat has gone down by 24 per cent, of milk—by 45 per cent and cereals—by 35 per cent. During the past 12 months heads of cattle went down by more than 3 million, and the flock of poultry—by 29 million. "It took us 40 years to build that stock," said Arkadiy Volskiy. He also said that following price liberalization, the sale of sausages went down by 59 per cent and sugar—by 40 per cent.

Government, Unions Sign No Strike Agreement

PM3003090692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Valeriy Konovalov: "Government, Trade Unions, and Entrepreneurs Reach Agreement"]

[Text] Strikes, unemployment, and price hikes pose a serious danger for Russian economic reforms. Members of a tripartite commission settling social and labor relations have tried to deflect this threat or at least alleviate its consequences.

They have signed a general agreement between the Russian Government, Russian trade union associations, and associations of entrepreneurs (employers) for the year 1992. This represents a demand for a civilized approach to resolving the painful problems in our society today with regard to the economy and social protection for people. Needless to say, the immediate future will tell how realistic these intentions are.

The agreement makes provision for the adoption of an employment program by 1 June 1992 and the introduction no later than the third quarter of this year of a mechanism for quarterly review of the minimum wage for personnel in all spheres of the economy as well as pensions, allowances, grants, and other social payments with consideration for the minimum subsistence level.

The document's clause on strikes is very important. The agreement says in particular that while it is in effect, provided that it is implemented, all-Russian interregional trade unions are to refrain from declaring strikes on matters relating to the agreement and entrepreneurs' associations are to refrain from mass dismissals of personnel and stoppages at enterprises.

What is more, the agreement makes provision for state regulation of prices and rates for a limited range of industrial and technical output, energy sources, and consumer goods and services.

Supreme Soviet

Proceedings of 25, 26 Mar Sessions Noted

PM2703133992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Robert Minasov: "Stormy Outburst of Emotions After Quiet"]

[Text] At the (25 March) daytime session the Supreme Soviet, after a brief exchange of polemics which developed mainly around the drafting of the document, deemed it possible to accept at the first reading the draft law "On Changes and Additions to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Rules."

Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the Committee for Legislation, and Igor Muravyev, deputy chairman of the Committee for Questions of the Work of the Soviets of People's Deputies and the Development of Self-Administration, delivered reports on the draft law "On Changes and Additions to the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Federation."

Over 40 amendments have been made recently to the existing constitution. A number of changes were caused by the disintegration of the USSR and the need for the constitutional enshrinement of Russia's sovereignty.

Particular note should be made of the addition to the constitution of Article 104 (footnote) according to which the Congress of Russian People's Deputies is invested with the right to delegate its powers only to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and not to the president, as happened at the last Congress of People's Deputies.

The draft law did not give rise to debate and was adopted at the first reading. On 3 April, with a consideration for the remarks and proposals which have come in, it should be submitted to the Supreme Soviet for a second reading.

Parliament has decided to amalgamate into a single law together with this document another draft law, also on amendments and additions to the Constitution, but this time with regard to the competence and powers of the Supreme Soviets of the republics within the Russian Federation, kray and oblast soviets, and soviets of people's deputies of the autonomous oblast and autonomous okrugs.

The draft law was adopted at the first reading.

At the evening session Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government and minister of labor and employment, presented to parliament the president's draft decree "On One-off Payments for April 1992 and the Social Protection of Individual Strata of the Population in 1992." In accordance with the decree the government intends to issue 300 rubles for April to each old age and invalidity pensioner and for the loss of a breadwinner and also to those who receive social pensions for the completion of a term of service, 150 rubles for each child, 15 rubles for research students and doctorate candidates, 125 rubles to students, and so forth.

Mikhail Zakharov, chairman of the Commission for Social Policy, who spoke after Shokhin, while basically approving the government's efforts, demanded that it immediately eliminate the debt to the Pension Fund for 1991, the first quarter of 1992, and April 1992 and second that it additionally pay into this fund (also at the budget's expense) an appropriate sum to pay compensation for pensions paid using the fund's own money (pensions for servicemen and the families of dead servicemen and social pensions).

The budget's total debts to the Pension Fund are 46 billion rubles.

The Russian parliament adopted a relevant resolution in which it agreed with the president's decree and at the same time issued a number of instructions for the Russian Federation Government.

At yesterday's (26 March) morning joint session of the Supreme Soviet two diametrically opposed events attracted the attention of journalists and observers. The deputies rejected the traditional "limbering up" during which a mass of amendments are as a rule made to the current agenda.

And a completely different atmosphere reigned in the auditorium when the parliament embarked, within the framework of preparation for the forthcoming Congress, on a discussion of the next, second, section of the draft of the new Constitution submitted by the Constitutional Commission—"basic rights, freedoms, and duties of the person and citizen."

Sergey Kovalev, a member of the Constitutional Commission, who delivered a report, noted that the proposed section of the Fundamental Law bears a considerable superficial resemblance to the similar section of the Constitution now in operation. At the same time there are fundamental differences.

An article by article discussion of the draft suggested by Sergey Filatov, who chaired the session, unexpectedly encountered an insuperable barrier. People's Deputies Ivan Polozkov, Andrey Golovin, Nikolay Pavlov, and Vyacheslav Lyubimov together opposed the proposed discussion procedure. In their opinion there is no point in voicing one's attitude toward the provisions and norms of the draft if the Constitutional Commission still has the final say. As a counterweight to them Vasiliy Bondarev, Mikhail Molostvov, Vladimir Barov, and the chair himself tried to persuade the parliamentarians that no one was encroaching on the deputies' right to the legislative initiative and that all their proposals and remarks during the debate would unfailingly be brought to the attention of the Congress. It is the Congress' business to decide whether or not to consider these remarks and proposals.

Sergey Filatov was obliged to read out the draft resolution of the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies which formulates absolutely clearly the Constitutional Commission's instruction to finish work on the draft Constitution with a consideration for remarks and proposals.

Ivan Galushko suggested a roll-call vote, which was accepted by the necessary number of votes.

Having wasted considerable time on altercations, parliament nonetheless made headway. But now it has to make up for lost time, because the agenda also includes complex questions like "the amnesty," "the report of the Russian Federation general prosecutor," and "responsibility for violating the procedure for submitting state statistical reports."

Proceedings on 27 Mar Session Reported

LD2703202992

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1730 GMT on 27 March carries an unscheduled 69-minute report with recorded highlights of the Russian Supreme Soviet session on 27 March.

The announcer introduces the report as follows: "By decision of the Russian parliament, the time allotted to the report on today's meeting of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session has been increased." She explains that a theatrical program scheduled for this time will be shown another day.

The report begins with the narrator saying that the morning session continued the debate on the draft constitution; a report on the president's budget message to the Supreme Soviet is then delivered by Yegor Gaydar.

Gaydar begins by noting that the president's message has been examined by committees and commissions, and that "we" are broadly in agreement with the comments. But he goes on to note a number of contradictions implied in the making of budget forecasts.

He says he wants to concentrate in his remarks on general principles which apply to all the documents under consideration by the deputies. Analysis shows that the drop in output began at the end of 1988 and the trend reached a serious level in 1991, having declined by then to about 80 percent of the 1988 figure. He mentions what this means for specific industrial products—oil, steel, and so on.

Gaydar goes on to say that in the first two months there was a tough budgetary policy, and gives figures for the gap between revenue and spending. He says that VAT receipts proved to be low in the first month and a half of the year, but picked up in the second half of February. Now that the first stage of price liberalization is over, budgetary policy can be eased a bit. Although a tighter budgetary policy will be needed in the future to check inflationary processes, there is at this precise moment a certain amount of room for maneuver, and this opportunity is to be utilized.

Gaydar next outlines the latest plans for military spending and proposals for army cuts and conversion programs. He says:

"As before, the heaviest reductions will continue to be those on arms purchases. As you remember, in the budget for the first quarter we proposed a sharp, approximately 70 percent reduction in arms spending. In the current annual budget we have tabled, we are proposing, taking account of 1991 prices, reduction in arms spending from 37 billion rubles [R] approximately to R11.2 billion. About half of this will be spent on the army's essential and vital needs. That is what we have agreed with the Supreme Command. This will provide for spare parts, things necessary for the functioning of hardware, for safety control systems, and a number of the most important strategic systems. The remaining R6 billion is the money we have earmarked not so much for the needs of the Defense Ministry as for the completion of calculations relating to the types of military goods or defence industry products which have already gone into production and for which we must pay in one way or another to works-producers so as to prevent their bankruptcy. Thus the R6 billion of the budget will involve not so much defense spending as expenditure inevitably connected with conversion.

"Taking account of 1992 prices, a total of R80 billion is to be spent on research and development. We are proposing that, taking account of 1992 prices, R55.3 billion be spent on development and research, so that we could preserve the scale of the main most important projects at the 1991 level, as far as the RSFSR's share is concerned, at least as far as Russian science is concerned."

Gaydar provides some further details military expenditure and adds:

"Naturally, such sharp, radical cuts in spending on defense, on arms purchases, presuppose that serious measures are to be taken to finance the conversion process in the defense complex. The budget provides R40.6 billion for these needs, money which is intended to be channeled as follows: R24.4 billion to finance consumption funds at enterprises subject to in-depth conversion; R11 billion for the upkeep of the infrastructure of those enterprises; and R1.6 billion to cover part of the interest on credits granted to defense enterprises for conversion programs. We propose to retain and to spread over the whole year central bank conversion credits to defense enterprises amounting to R40 billion, part of the interest on which will be funded through the budget, so that they might be used to finance the most effective conversion schemes."

At 1801 GMT Gaydar focuses on funding of the agro-industrial complex: loans for small farmers and compensation for the 1990 harvest. He moves on to spending on the social and cultural sphere: education, health, and other areas.

Despite the need for a tight budget, Gaydar says, it is felt possible to increase the consolidated budget deficit in

1992. He says that subsidies will be provided for fuel, although the details can be finalized when fuel prices are unfrozen later in the year.

At 1812 GMT Gaydar concludes his speech, and Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices Commission, comes to the rostrum to deliver a further report.

Pochinok begins by outlining the procedures for reviewing the implementation of the budget. Running through budget forecasts, Pochinok criticizes the government's handling of inflation, its underestimation of the slump in production, and the underinvestment caused by government policy. The government's forecasts should be revised, he emphasizes.

Pochinok goes on to say that regulation of foreign economic activity has totally failed. Tax wars have already begun between budget authorities at different levels. Investments must be made tax-exempt, he adds.

Pochinok next criticizes regional policy and other aspects of the Russian Government's financial strategy. He proposes that a decision be adopted on budget implementation and that the government should be required to do further work on it.

At 1834 GMT Pochinok concludes his speech.

Next, Polunina of the Budget Committee says she wants to point out shortcomings in both Gaydar's and Pochinok's speeches. She says that important factors were ignored in drawing up the budget. Production volumes have fallen catastrophically, she says, and this is continuing. It means that revenues are not feeding into the budget as profits are down. Taxes at the moment are penalizing producers, she concludes.

The report ends at 1839 GMT.

Further on 27 Mar Session

LD2703234192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2023 GMT resumes its report with recorded highlights of the Russian Supreme Soviet session on 27 March.

The program begins with continued recording of the speech by Polunina of the Budget Committee. She urges the government to take account of plan indicators when it does its sums. She complains that government economic ministries and bodies keep changing their name.

At 2033 Deputy (Shinko) of the Defense and Security Committee says that there is an increasing gap between the amount of money required for defense and the amount actually available.

Next, Deputy Shulgin from an unnamed committee discusses spending on science and education, followed by Deputy Filippov, who says the aim wasn't a balanced budget as such, but a firm ruble. Another deputy intervenes.

At 2043 Gaydar returns to the rostrum to face deputies and sum up his arguments on the economy, countering some of the deputies' criticisms.

At 2049 Filatov, chairman of the session, says the 1992 budget cannot be passed in its present form, but the decision on the implementation of the 1990 budget could be adopted. The 1992 budget should not be passed because the present tax policy will not yield the expected results. There are also problems over the absence of clear military policy, he notes.

Finally, the narrator says the "relevant decisions" were adopted. The program ends at 2053 GMT.

Budget Resolution for First Quarter Released

PM2603143192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 92 First Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 169 issued in Moscow 17 March 1992: "On Measures To Implement the Russian Federation Law 'On the Russian Federation Budgetary System for the First Quarter of 1992'"]

[Text] In accordance with the Russian Federation law "On the Russian Federation Budgetary System for the First Quarter of 1992" the Russian Federation Government resolves that:

1. The Russian Federation republic budget for the first quarter of 1992 shall be adopted for implementation with total spending of 420.5 billion rubles [R] on the basis of total income of R420.5 billion in accordance with Appendix No. 1.

2. It shall be laid down that in the first quarter of 1992 the budgets of republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg shall receive:

part of the revenue from value-added tax under normatives in accordance with Appendix No. 2;

50 percent of total excise duty on vodka, other spirits, and liqueurs;

other federal excise duties (with the exception of duty on cars).

3. Provision shall be made in the Russian Federation budget for the first quarter of 1992 for appropriations to finance the national economy, science, and sociocultural measures, for the upkeep of organs of state power and administration, the courts, prosecutor's offices, and other spending on Russian Federation ministries and departments in accordance with Appendix No. 3.

4. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall:

on the basis of information on prices and incomes growth indices from the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics, and taking account of the conclusions of the standing commissions of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chambers and committees, and of the remarks and proposals expressed at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session, make the necessary clarifications to the indicators of the Russian Federation budgetary system for the first quarter of 1992, and coordinate budgetary relationships with the governments of republics within the Russian Federation and organs of executive power in national-state and administrative-territorial formations, as well as the size and recipients of subsidies allocated to finance spending on social support for the population by territories without their own financial resources;

submit to the Russian Federation Government by 17 March 1992 proposals to clarify the indicators of the Russian Federation budgetary system for the first quarter of 1992, as well as drafts of the Russian Federation's consolidated and republic budgets for the second quarter of 1992 and for 1992 itself.

5. Within one week the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry shall submit to the Russian Federation Government for ratification a list of enterprises to be converted, reflecting the distribution and main avenues of the utilization of budget appropriations for conversion in the first quarter of 1992.

6. The Russian Federation Ministry of Science, Higher Education, and Technical Policy shall submit for ratification by the Russian Federation Government within one week the allocation to the Russian Federation ministries and departments of appropriations for the financing of fundamental scientific research and state scientific and technical programs in the first quarter of 1992.

7. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall transfer from the Russian Federation republic budget in the first quarter of 1992:

R7,813.6 million to the Russian Federation Pension Fund, including R275 million in state pensions and benefits to draftees, citizens with an equivalent pension entitlement, and their families; R543 million in social pensions; R6,523.2 million in benefits for children of between 18 months and six years of age; and R47 million in spending on remitting and forwarding these pensions and benefits;

R1.6 billion to the "Russian Farmer" Fund to outfit newly formed peasant (private) farms;

and R500 million to the Northern Fund to finance the targeted program for the development of the economy and culture of the numerically small peoples of the North.

8. The former Finance Ministry shall:

coordinate with the Russian Federation Central Bank within one week the procedure and conditions for granting credit in the first quarter of 1992 to cover the cash deficit [kassovyye razryvy] in the Russian Federation's republic budget;

issue by the end of 1992 no less than R15 billion worth of Russian Federation State Republic Internal Loan bonds to be placed on a voluntary basis with the population, enterprises, organizations, and banks.

9. The Russian Federation Ministry of Industry, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and the Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall determine in conjunction with the Russian Federation Central Bank the procedure for granting and the terms of targeted credit to finance enterprises undergoing conversion in 1992.

10. In connection with the Russian Federation law "On Natural Resources":

The Russian Federation Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall submit to the Russian Federation Government within one week proposals on the level of deductions for the reproduction of the minerals and raw materials base, and on the procedure for levying, distributing, and utilizing those deductions;

The Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall submit corresponding clarifications to the indicators of the Russian Federation republic budget for the first quarter of 1992.

11. The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall elaborate within two weeks and present to the Russian Federation Government for submission to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposals on clarifying the rates set by the RSFSR law "On Payment for Land" for the tax on agricultural land and for the tax on land in cities.

12. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry, governments of republics within the Russian Federation, and organs of executive power in krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg shall pay into the republic (Russian Federation) and territorial funds for social support to the population in the first quarter of 1992 funds raised from the revaluation of residual output and goods carried out as of 2 January 1992 in the amounts laid down by RSFSR Government Resolution No. 56 of 19 December 1991, and 10 percent of the proceeds reaching budgets at all levels from the privatization of state property.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Social Protection for the Population shall ensure the financing of measures to step up social protection for citizens of the Russian Federation within the limits of the funds raised from the

revaluation of residual output and goods in connection with price liberalization, and from the privatization of state property.

13. The Russian Federation State Tax Service shall establish permanent control over the completeness and timeliness of tax and income receipts flowing into budgets at all levels in strict accordance with the new taxation legislation and the Russian Federation law "On the Russian Federation Budgetary System for the First Quarter of 1992," as well as the completeness and timeliness of revenues flowing into the republic (Russian Federation) and territorial funds for social support to the population from the revaluation of residual output and goods in connection with price liberalization, and of proceeds from the privatization of state property.

14. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall ensure targeted financing of the spending envisaged in the Russian Federation republic budget, taking account of the amount of income that can actually be generated.

Expenditure on the upkeep of the apparatus of Russian Federation ministries, departments, and their organs shall be financed in the first quarter of 1992 within the limits of the aforesaid appropriations, assuming full staffing levels and the resolution of the issues of staff placement.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

Appendix No. 1 to Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 169 of 17 March 1992

Russian Federation Republic Budget for the First Quarter of 1992 (in millions of rubles)

Income
Value-added tax—134,061.988
Excise duty—7,430.232
Enterprise and organization profits tax—35,595.771
Income from foreign economic activity—228,000
Tax on securities operations—71
Deductions to cover spending on geological prospecting and research work to locate mineral resources—5,425
Charges and various nontax income—2,466.009
Other income—4,450
Privatization proceeds—3,000
Total income—420,500

Expenditure
On financing the national economy, total—59,920.216
of which: the agro-industrial complex, including the private farm support fund—2,254.113
budgetary conversion fund—10,000
geological prospecting and research work—5,425
state subsidies and price differential top-up payments—11,379
of which for:

coal—10,547

foodstuffs—832

state investment—25,760.65
On financing foreign economic activity—219,652
On financing sociocultural measures, total—24,291.728
of which:

education—17,172.649

culture, art, and the mass media—3,088.5

health care—3,049.479

physical fitness—13.3

social welfare—857.8

Republic Family Support Fund and the Committee for Family Affairs—110
On financing science—9,979
Funds from the Russian Federation republic budget transferred to the Russian Federation Pension Fund—7,813.6
On financing military spending—50,727
On financing spending on the implementation of international treaties on arms elimination, reduction, and restriction—374
On forming financial reserves for indexing protected articles of expenditure in the Russian Federation republic budget—17,962
On the upkeep of law-enforcement organs—11,720.82
On the upkeep of organs of state power and administration—3,586.898
On forming a Russian Federation Government Reserve Fund—2,000
On forming a Russian Federation Supreme Soviet fund for social protection to the population—1,500
On financing a targeted program to develop the economy and culture of the numerically small peoples of the North—500
On servicing state domestic debt—75.325
On financing targeted state (Russian Federation) programs to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] disaster, the nuclear discharge in Chelyabinsk Oblast, and the long impact of nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk Test Range on the population of Altay Kray and Orenburg Oblast—8,795.1
Subsidies to the budgets of republics within the Russian Federation and autonomous formation budgets—953.254
Other expenditure—649.059
Total expenditure—420,500

Regional Affairs

Siberians in Krasnoyarsk Adopt Resolutions

LD2803220192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1754 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk—The Congress of the Siberian Soviets did not proclaim the Siberian republic, but

demanded to enter the article on equal status of republics, areas and regions into the Constitution of Russian Federation. The resolution of the Congress of the Siberian Soviets on the draft Constitution of the Russian Federation addressed to the 6th Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation offers to include an article on the equal status of the subjects of Federation into the constitution of Russian Federation, with an exception of the right of republics to adopt the Constitution of their own and to have the state symbols.

Vyacheslav Novikov, chairman of Krasnoyarsk Areal Soviet, told PF [POSTFACTUM]: Without a kind of securing by the Siberian congress, there was a danger that proclamation of the equal status of the subjects of federation in the constitution would not find support at the people's deputies' congress. According to some participants in the congress, inequality of areas and regions of the Russian Federation, as compared to the republics, has caused, among other things, the fact of an attempt of preparation by Krasnoyarsk Areal Soviet of documents on setting up a Yenisey republic on the territory of this area in summer 1991, whereas Tomsk and Irkutsk regions declared themselves as state formations in late 1991.

At the congress in Krasnoyarsk, a resolution was also adopted with proposals of a drift to the one-channel setting up the budget of the Russian Federation from the second quarter of 1992. At the same time, according to some deputies, introduction of the one-channel system will inevitably result in impoverishment of the budget of the Russian Federation. As Veniamin Sokolov, chairman of the budget commission of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet said at the congress, a drift to the one-channel system means the beginning of the breakup of Russia according to the scenario of the breakup of the former USSR.

The delegates of the Krasnoyarsk congress also spoke in favor of exclusion from the federative treaty of the article on the possibility of introduction of the emergency state on the territory of the federative subjects by the federative power organs. In the delegates' opinion, this article of the treaty allows the federative authorities if necessity arises, to dissolve the local soviets which are not in accord with Moscow's policy. The resolution also includes a proposal on the entering into the constitution of the article on preservation of the status of the current Russian Federation' people's deputies of all the levels until their term of office expires in 1995. Some deputies note that there are contradictions in the resolutions of the congress. Thus, e.g., the principle of division of the legislative, executive and judicial powers is proposed to be included into the constitution. On the other side, an article on a possibility of putting the functions of the local administration heads onto the chairmen of soviets is proposed to be added to the law on local self-administration in the RSFSR. According to some deputies, these contradictions, probably, show that there are two programs at the disposal of the organizers of the congress, i.e., a minimum program, aimed at prevention of exclusion of the local soviets from the power system of the Russian Federation, and a maximum program, aimed at providing of the soviets with full executive and representative power in the provinces.

Predicting any possible response of the Russian authorities to the decisions of the Krasnoyarsk congress, Vyacheslav Novikov, chairman of the congress organizing committee and chairman of Krasnoyarsk territorial soviet, said at the final news conference on March 28 that the soviets of Siberia had two ways to resolve regional problems: A civilized one, i.e. parliamentary, via the existing structures of authority, and a non-civilized one. Among the possible non-civilized forms, Novikov mentioned a one-hour all- Siberian strike, stopping the Trans-Siberian railway, halting major regional monopolistic enterprises the lack of whose products would hurt Russia. Novikov emphasized, however, that at present the second way seems to be unacceptable.

Alexey Manannikov, member of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet committee on economic reforms, told PF: The congress reminded a party and production activist conference in its organization and progress, and it could not be a uniting factor for Siberia. The persons gathered at the congress are united by non- acceptance of the Gaydar government reforms that piled up more problems for local authorities. I did not expect from this congress any cardinal solutions for the establishment of the Siberian republic, Manannikov said.

A number of delegates sounded the idea of the possible existence of Siberia beyond the Russian Federation. Vyacheslav Sterligov, deputy chairman of Kemerovo regional soviet, spoke at the congress on March 28 and said: Separatism is natural and unavoidable. It emerged as a response to excess centralization of authority. We can get by without Russia while Russia cannot get by without us. The center should share its authority with us.

In the opinion of the number of delegates, the congress demonstrated strengthening of separatist tendencies in local structures of authority in Siberia. Boris Perov, leader of Party of Independent Siberia (PIS), told PF that after the first day of the congress in Krasnoyarsk its 15 delegates requested to join the PIS. Perov also said that during the public opinion poll carried out by the PIS in January 1992 in Tomsk 30 per cent of those polled supported the idea of setting up the Siberian state, and in another poll in March, according to Perov, the idea was supported by 53 per cent of those polled. In the opinion of a number of congress participants, the Tomsk regional delegation preached the idea of separation of Siberia more actively than anybody else.

In the opinion of a number of deputies, the announcement of Siberian republic at the congress at Krasnoyarsk could not be made because its organizers opposed the problem of protecting the rights of local representative organs of authority from the infringement by the center. An indirect confirmation can be provided by the fact that the congress was financed by regional and territorial

soviets of eight territories in Siberia. Vyacheslav Novikov, chairman of the congress organizing committee, told PF that the congress was granted R [ruble] 10,000 from local budgets of each territory. In the opinion of deputies it is also indicated that the Autonomous Republic of Siberia did not take part in the congress at the level of delegations. Commenting on the refusal of a number of Siberian autonomies to participate in the activities of the Congress of Siberian Soviets, Kyzyl city Soviet Chairman Yuriy Slobodchikov, told on March 28 at a news conference: The republics tend to rise above territories and regions.

Some of the delegates believe that messages in the mass media on the possibility of announcing the Siberian republic at the Krasnoyarsk congress assisted the congress organizers in defending the rights of local representative authorities playing the role of additional lever of putting pressure on Moscow. We are grateful to the press for advertising the congress, said Vyacheslav Novikov at the final news conference on March 28. The Krasnoyarsk conference took a decision to set up the organizing committee for the preparation and holding the second Congress of People's Deputies of Siberian territories which as congress organizing chairman Vyacheslav Novikov said will be held when it would be needed.

None Deals With Secession

OW2803184892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The delegates to the 1st congress of Siberian people's deputies which closed in Krasnoyarsk on Saturday [28 March], condemned the federal government's practice of carrying out economic reforms without considering the local conditions in different parts of vast Russia" and urged the Russian governemnt to adjust its course. [quotation marks as received] The delegates said, this policy has made Siberia beg for social and humanitarian aid, although it is the main source of raw materials and fuel.

They also proposed that following adoption by the Russian parliament in its first reading, the draft constitution of the Russian federation should be discussed nationwide.

The delegates expressed concern over certain quarters' attempts to bar the soviets of people's deputies from government. This alienates people from power and violates the division-of-power principle which is the basic principle of a democratic state.

Meanwhile, none of the nine resolutions adopted by the congress deals with Siberia's secession from Russia.

The next congress of Siberian people's deputies will be held in Irkutsk. The date has not been set.

Leader Urges Independent State

LD2703221692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1455 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk—Siberian Independence Party leader Boris Perov proposed that the delegates of the first Congress of Siberia's Soviets adopt a declaration on state sovereignty for Siberia. Addressing the congress on March 27, Perov also said:

The catastrophe of Siberia can be staved off only [if] an independent Siberian state is created immediately. Perov emphasized that Siberia's share in the Gross National Product of the Russian Federation makes up over 75 per cent and Russia will never give up the Siberian wealth, the only basis for its existence. Perov said: The plunder of Siberia cannot be halted or diminished by extending the status of the Russian Federation's subjects to the Siberian authorities and the right to control their resources. According to Perov, only local managers who expropriate government property, concessioners and Moscow exchange dealers stand to benefit from this status.

Perov proposed that the delegates of the congress proclaim their forum as the supreme body of state authority in Siberia during the transition period and disband Russian management bodies on the territory of the region. In addition, Perov believes the congress should elect president of the Siberian state for the transition period, transfer all enterprises, state-run institutions, the armed forces, border, Interior Ministry and KGB troops to its jurisdiction. In his thesis to the congress, Perov proposes that a legislative ban be imposed on foreign firms' participation in the exploration and production of minerals and other natural resources of Siberia and also all privatization acts on Siberian territory be cancelled and the Siberian state's control over the key branches of the economy established.

In addition, Perov thinks the congress should prohibit legislatively the import of industrial waste to Siberia and pass a decision on evacuating the hazardous waste which was brought to the region earlier. He calls for setting up a commission to estimate the damage wrought to Siberia by the mother country and filing through international legal instances a suit against the Russian Government over recouping the damage caused to Siberia.

Perov told PF the Siberian Independence Party he heads, was founded two years ago and has branches virtually in all areas of the region. At present, the main plank of the party's programme is the creation of an independent Siberian state and non-acceptance of the privatization scheme proposed by the Russian leaders. Perov thinks privatization should be carried out without the involvement of capital gained from profiteering and become the third stage in the creation of the Siberian state (after the announcement of the state's creation and the introduction of the Siberian currency).

Vyacheslav Novikov, chairman of the organizing committee of the Siberian Congress, told PF he regards Perov's actions as very stupid tactics leading to the break-up of Russia.

Seen as 'Signal to Moscow'

LD2703182792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1417 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk— On March 27 the first Congress of Siberian Soviets opened in Krasnoyarsk.

It is being attended by 136 delegates including people's deputies of various levels representing the Krasnoyarsk and Altay territories, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Kemerovo, Tomsk, and Irkutsk regions. Representatives of the Perm Region, Gorno-Altay Republic, Khakassia, Yakut and Buryat Republics as well as of the far-eastern regions and territories are attending the congress as observers. The congress plans to discuss the issues of the socio-economic situation in Siberia.

The standards of living in Siberia are 47 per cent lower than in Russia's central areas, Chairman of the Krasnoyarsk Territorial Soviet Vyacheslav Novikov told the congress. According to him, the Krasnoyarsk territory, occupying 1/10th of the former USSR, occupies the 49th place in the Russian Federation as regards people's being provided with housing and the 70th place as regards their being provided with telephones. The only high index the Krasnoyarsk territory can boast is consumption of potatoes—here it occupies the 10th place in Russia.

To close down unfinished construction projects alone, the territory needs R50 [rubles] million, Vyacheslav Novikov said.

Addressing the congress, Chairman of the Kemerovo Regional Council Aman Tuleyev said: The Russian Center is accusing us of separatism because it is unwilling to share power. Russian Federal deficit-free budget is being ensured through local deficit-ridden budgets. It is the Russian center that is pushing us towards creating a Siberian Republic that no one needs. We oppose the methods that are used in conducting the economic reform and the fact that we have been relegated to the role of understudies in it. The opinion poll conducted in the Kemerovo Region, Aman Tuleyev said, showed that about 20 per cent of the respondents do not support the Gaydar government. The output level in Siberia is now lower than during the great patriotic war (the Second World War), laboratory manager at the Institute of Economy and Industrial Production Organization with the Russian Academy of Sciences, Siberian Branch, Aleksandr Kiselnikov (Krasnoyarsk) told the congress. According to his information, the living standards in Siberia call for at least a 40 per cent quotient of extra pay, and not 15 per cent, which is the case now. 250,000 people are employed at the military-industrial complex enterprises and 80,000—in academic science, Kiselnikov reported. Both these branches, he said, have been denied financing making about 350,000 people face the threat of unemployment.

Boris Perov, a member of the work group in charge for preparing the congress, a deputy of the Tomsk Regional Soviet and the Chairman of the Independent Siberia Party, believes that this congress is unlikely to proclaim the Siberian Republic. The congress has gathered privatizers who will finally ruin Siberia, Boris Perov told PF [POSTFACTUM]. Oleg Kushelevsky, a member of Tomsk Regional Smaller Chamber, told PF: We, the organizers of the congress, are the only people who are trying to prevent Siberia from being torn away from Russia. Little hope can be pinned on the interregional association Siberian accord as it involves administration heads who are appointed by Moscow. This congress is the first signal to Moscow. If it does not change its colonial economic policy and does not grant equal rights to the republics and regions, there will remain only one way—establishing the Siberian Republic.

This congress, some participants believe, may become a dress rehearsal for creating the Siberian Republic. According to their forecasts, a month following the liberalization of prices for energy-carriers, in late May-early June, the second Congress of Siberian Soviets is planned to be convened where the Siberian Republic may be established.

Burbulis Reaches Agreement With Komi Strikers

LD2803182392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 28 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Victor Makarov]

[Text] Syktyvkar, Komi Republic—A delegation of the government of the Russian Federation, led by First Deputy Premier Gennadiy Burbulis, and representatives of strikers—oil-industry workers and other working people in Usinsk—have reached agreement. They had talks here on March 27. Burbulis signed a protocol defining joint actions to resolve the conflict.

It was decided to set up a working group to prepare proposals aimed at meeting the demands that had been put forward. The working group will consist of representatives of the Russian three-sided commission for the settlement of social and labour relations and the Usinsk City Strike Committee.

The strikers' demands are economic not political ones, Nikolay Perefechniy, chairman of the Usinsk Strike Committee, told ITAR-TASS. They did not put forward political demands and are against anyone's using the oilmen's strike to attain one's own political ends particularly, on the eve of or during the forthcoming Congress of Russia's People's Deputies, Peresechniy says.

The strike committee leader believes that it is advisable to suspend the strike now to reactivate the shutdown oil

production wells and together with the government of Russia to look for ways and methods to resolve problems.

Local Reforms at Issue

OW2703195292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian First Vice-Premier Gennadiy Burbulis has reported that the strike committees in the Komi republic agreed to refrain from strikes for 1-1.5 months. He was quoted as calling the strikes "harmful pressure on the government". Gennadiy Burbulis discussed strategic prospects for developing the Northern part of Russia. He called the discussion "a rehearsal for bringing up the issue at the conference".

He also reported that projects for developing mining and manufacturing industries in the republic had been discussed. He pointed out that the area gained strategic importance, for there were plans to build a railway to the North and in the future a sea port open all year round.

During the visit the government members made a serious conclusion that more attention is required to the implementation of the reforms locally.

Demarcation of Tatarstan, Russia Powers Decided

LD2703215492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1900 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The range of powers which Tatarstan is prepared to delegate to Russia has been decided. First of all is defense, communications, and transport. A draft treaty on the demarcation of powers with the Russian Federation is now being drawn up in Kazan by a bilateral working group.

Committee Urges Russian Troops Out of Tatarstan

LD2703142192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0957 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kazan—On March 26, a meeting of the Suverenitet [as received] Committee demanded that Russian troops be evacuated from Tatarstan and also that the beaming of chauvinist Russian television programmes to Tatarstan be stopped.

The meeting also announced that Tatarstan does not intend to cede its powers to other states. The committee described statements by certain representatives of state administration to the effect that Tatarstan is incorporated into another state is irresponsible, stressing that implementation of other states' laws in Tatarstan is tantamount to high treason.

Shaymiyev 'Cannot Guarantee' Stability

LD2703203592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1758 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kazan—Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev cannot guarantee republic's stability, believes republican People's Deputy Murat Sirazin.

Speaking about Tatarstan's split from Russia and at the same time refusing to sign the Federative Treaty, Shaymiyev does not act properly. The republican government has been cheating its people, said Sirazin in an interview to the newspaper KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTY on March 27. According to him, the referendum was followed by a split in yes and no categories. Pro-communist and chauvinistic forces who are struggling against Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin may benefit from developments in Tatarstan, the deputy believes.

Federative Treaty 'Contradicts' Kazan Stand

LD2703220792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1455 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kazan—Tatarstan supports the idea to form the Russian Federation following signing of a number of treaties, Deputy Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Chairman Aleksandr Lozovoy said on leaving for regular consultations to be held in Moscow.

On March 26 Aleksandr Lozovoy also told PF [POSTFACTUM] that the draft of the Russian Constitution is democratic enough though it contradicts the stand taken by Kazan. Tatarstan's leadership supports the idea that the powers should be delegated by the republics on the basis of individual treaties.

Speaking about the republican leadership's claims to the Federative Treaty, Lozovoy stressed that the treaty is inacceptable for Tatarstan: Its authors even failed to reach the level of 1917-type Bolsheviks who proclaimed the rights of autonomies for self-determination, including withdrawal from Russia. The present Federative Treaty completely lacks such a provision. Should the Tatarstan Republic sign the treaty, it will lose even those rights that it has possessed till now, the right to create its own law-enforcement bodies, in particular. Lozovoy stated that the center is still discontent with introducing the one-channel tax system, supported by Tatarstan, as well as other republics, territories and regions.

The center insists on joint control over the natural resources, despite the exclusive right for natural resources proclaimed in the declaration on state sovereignty of Tatarstan. In case of a joint session, Lozovoy reported, the Tatarstan Republic is faced with growing environmental problems, instead of benefits related to oil exploration.

The economic policy managed far from Tatarstan's borders, is leading only to losses and unreasonable waste of money, deputy Tatarstan Supreme Soviet chairman claims.

According to Lozovoy, Moscow wasted a year and a half after the adoption of the declaration on state sovereignty of Tatarstan pretending that nothing has happened, though it should have scientifically examined the issue of the national-territorial structure of Russia. The Russian center's approach to Tatarstan as its territory remains, Aleksandr Lozovoy said.

Tatar Congress Concludes; No Army Formed

OW2903160392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first session of the Milli-Majlis, the National Congress of Tatars, has ended in Kazan. On the second and last day of its work the session focused on military matters and participation in the World Congress of Tatars, scheduled for June.

Deputies agreed that since the official authorities had denied the Milli-Majlis their recognition and intended to call a world Tatar congress to form an alternative Milli-Majlis, it would be expedient to contribute to the congress preparations.

No agreement was reached on whether or not Tatarstan should form an army of its own. Some of the groups belonging to the nationalist movement would like Tatarstan to declare neutrality, not delegate its defense powers to the Russian Federation, and stop financing defense-related programs. Others are insisting on the formation of armed forces of Tatarstan's own.

Speakers suggested that the parliament suspend the spring drafting campaign until it was clear whether Tatarstan would have a national guard.

Talgat Abdullin, head of the Milli-Majlis, promised that his organization would cooperate with the official government as long as their interests coincided. He said the government had changed its attitude to the Majlis for the better, and President Shaymiyev was ready to promote cooperation with it. "We will not be in opposition to the president unless he puts himself in opposition to the people," Abdullin said.

Gamir Gibadullin, member of the Majlis Presidium, told IF [INTERFAX] that the Milli-Majlis would by no means claim state power or attempt to overthrow the present administration.

Tatarstan-Bashkortostan Confederation Proposed

LD2903165492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The process of promoting sovereignty is already assuming, in my view, an irreversible nature in CIS. Here is one more report. A group of people's deputies of Tatarstan has drawn up a draft confederative treaty between Bashkortostan and Tatarstan. This treaty provides for the formation of a so-called Volzhsko-Uralskaya Konfederatsiya. It will be a presidential republic with dual citizenship, its own legislation, and its own organs of government and administration. It also provides for the Confederation joining the CIS independently.

Criminals Hijack Bus in Mineralnye Vody

LD2803123792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 28 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Mineralnye Vody March 28 TASS—It has been learned that Aleksandr Nikiforov, deputy head of the Lermontov City Interior Ministry Department, and Viktor Tkachenko, a road traffic police officer, were left among the hostages in the bus which is currently running in the direction of Chechen-Ingushetia.

Negotiations with the terrorists to liberate the rest of the captives are conducted by state security Colonel Yevgeniy Sheremetev, who won freedom for schoolchildren seized by bandits, who planned to shelter in Israel, in Vladikavkaz two and a half years ago.

Details of what happened in Lermontov were made available. Road traffic police, who noticed a Zhiguli car breaching road traffic rules within the city boundaries, chased the violaters in the patrol car and forced them to stop. Two men were found in the Zhiguli car, both of them smelled of alcohol. The drunken men were seated in different cars—one of the two remained with the road traffic police inspector, who drove the Zhiguli car, the other was picked by the patrol car.

The patrol car already disappeared behind the bend when the criminal who was left in the Zhiguli car snatched out a home-made pistol and leaped out of the car. A shootout broke out. The one who was armed with the home-made pistol was first injured in the leg and then shot himself to death during the chase.

Meanwhile, the criminal who was forced to take his seat in the patrol car of the road traffic police asked to stop in a yard of one of the houses. "Here is my flat, I will go and take the documents," he said. The criminal entered the house. Some time passed but he did not return. A police unit that arrived for help surrounded the house and began combing it. In one of the apartments the policemen were ambushed by the criminal who managed to escape and another two persons armed with a

machine-gun and grenade. Police officers Aleksandr Nikiforov and Viktor Tkachenko, who did not expect this, were taken hostage.

In several minutes, the number of hostages swelled to eighteen after the criminals blocked the way to a bus carrying 16 passengers.

Hostages Released in Groznyy

LD2803200392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1929 GMT 28 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuev]

[Text] Groznyy March 28 TASS—All the hostages, captured in the Stavropol territory by a group of terrorists on Friday [27 March], were set free in the Chechen Republic today.

Armed bandits, led by Ali Daurov, 28, an ethnic Adygee, demanded a plane to be put at their disposal. First they intended to fly to Iraq, then to Turkey or Jordan. It became known, however, that Turkey and Jordan refused to play host to the potential hijackers. Then the terrorists changed their intentions and demanded a free passage to the Chechen Republic. On their demand two of their "chums" were set free at the investigation prison in the Stavropol territory, and in exchange for them they set free three out of 25 hostages. After that the bandits, together with the remaining hostages and with their relatives took another bus, belonging to the Chechen Republic by the way, and steered for Groznyy.

At about 06.00 in the evening the bus, escorted by the militia, was stopped near Groznyy by representatives of the Chechen leadership. The group included Chechen Foreign Minister Shamil Beno, First Deputy Minister of the Interior Said-Ahmed Udiyev and member of parliament Vakha Arsanov, who demanded that the terrorists set free the hostages immediately and without any preliminary conditions. The ITAR-TASS correspondent witnessed those short negotiations.

On Saturday [28 March] evening all the released hostages were in Groznyy. They were fed and given shelter. Soon they will return home.

The four terrorists (their total number has just been established) were moved to the building of the Chechen Interior Ministry. Representatives of the Russian law enforcement agencies arrived there. The republican leadership will decide what will be done with the bandits.

Until all the circumstances are made clear, it is difficult to find out the real intentions of the group, which resorted to terror.

Fate of Hijackers Still Unclear

LD3003004592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] It is unclear as to what has happened to the terrorists from Stavropol region. As you know, they tried to flee abroad after taking 28 hostages. On 28 March they were detained by the Chechen Republic Interior Ministry and all the hostages were set free. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from sources close to President Dzhakhar Dudayev that the terrorists are not being held by the Interior Ministry. According to some reports, they have been handed over to a unit of the Checheniya national guard.

North Ossetia Endorses Federation Treaty

LD2903130292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1154 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 29 TASS—The North Ossetian parliament session on Sunday [29 March] endorsed the recently initialled federative treaty and an absolute majority of deputies voted for signing it.

The treaty envisages the delimitation of powers between Russia and constituent republics.

The deputies of parliament authorised Parliament Chief Akhsarbek Galazov and Prime Minister Sergey Khetagurov to sign the federative treaty provided an amendment about the inviolability of North Ossetia's borders is accepted.

The leaders of North and South Ossetia met here on Sunday. They considered fundamental issues connected with stabilising the situation in South Ossetia and creating conditions for official talks between the Ossetian side and plenipotentiary representatives of the Georgian provisional government to end combat actions in the region and restore peace and concord in South Ossetia.

A meeting to settle Ossetian-Georgian relations is to be held in Vladikavkaz soon. Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's State Council, gave consent to attend the meeting.

International Affairs

Further Reportage on Moldovan Situation

Arms Removed From Border Area

LD2703183192 Moscow TASS in English 1747 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zaika]

[Text] Kiev March 27 TASS—Over 100 firearms and 26 gas guns and cylinders have been removed at the Ukrainian-Moldovan border over the past six days alone. A 27-men-strong armed group was not permitted to move across Ukrainian territory.

About 6,000 border guards, staffers of the Interior Ministry and the Ukrainian National Guard, as well as 145 APC's [armored personnel carriers] and almost 300 combat units of various purpose have been accumulated on the border to provide for order there, a working group for ensuring constant control over the situation in Moldova neighbouring areas told a news conference here today.

It is planned to move to and deploy at the 50-kilometer special zone three border units and over 50 linear emergency control frontier posts to cover all danger-prone directions.

These measures are being take to provide for the inviolability of Ukrainian territory, security of its citizens, protection of public order and non-admission of infiltration of armed formations and other trespassers of the state and customs border.

At the same time, no obstacles are put to civilians crossing the border.

Romanian Arms Shipped

LD2803172992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1143 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—The command of the Ukrainian frontier troops has trustworthy information about large deliveries of Romanian armaments to Moldova and about the recruiting of volunteers in Romania to participate in hostilities against the Dniester Moldovan Republic.

This was said by Colonel-General Valeriy Gubenko, chief commander of the Ukrainian frontier troops, at a press-conference in Kiev on March 27 on the protection of the state border of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict between Moldova and the Dniester Moldovan Republic. Gubenko said Ukraine had to adopt tougher measures for the protection of the border with Moldova to prevent the spread of the armed conflict to the Ukrainian territory. Gubenko has the information that a tripartite meeting of government delegations of Ukraine, Moldova and Romania will be held in Odessa on April 16-17. The delegations will resolve practical matters of border delimitation and the establishment of appropriate frontier regime between these states. Asked by PF [POSTFACTUM] if the problem of frontiers with Russia and Belarus is to be resolved in the same way, Gubenko said: Certain measures are being taken, but it should be realized that this process is likely to be prolonged. As to me personally I do not go along with the talk about the need for "transparent" frontiers.

Commenting on an interview with Colonel-General Ilya Kalinichenko, commander of frontier troops of the Commonwealth of Independent States, granted to news program of Ostankino Television and Broadcasting Company on March 26, Gubenko said: Romanians who, according to Kalinichenko, are detained in large numbers in Vyborg (Leningrad Region), arrive in Russia not across the Ukrainian- Moldovan border, but via the route Romania—Hungary—Czechoslovakia—Poland—Belarus—Russia. We have reliably blocked our Western border to illegal entry. Gubenko also said that Ukrainian frontier troops are not and will not be part of frontier troops of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The organizers of the press-conference stated that on the whole, law and order are being maintained on the Ukrainian-Moldovan frontier and the adjoining 50-kilometers zone of special regime. Frontier guards, militiamen and national guards prevented in March some 200 attempts of the warring sides of Moldova to use the Ukrainian territory to send armed units, weapons and ammunition to the areas of hostilities. Large amounts of weapons and ammunition were confiscated.

Eduard Miroshnichenko, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Customs Control, said that full-scale customs control will be introduced from next week at most checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border.

Major-General Victor Bannykh, deputy commander of the Ukrainian frontier troops, told PF that 20-30 citizens of various countries, including Romania, Mongolia, Vietnam and China, are daily detained on the Ukrainian-Polish border when attempting illegally to reach Germany or France via Poland. Arriving in the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States as tourists, these persons, who are actually economic refugees, form groups in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kiev and try to leave the CIS across the Ukrainian border. These attempts are decisively frustrated, Bannykh said.

Parliament Calls For Peace

LD2703222392 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev March 27 ITAR-TASS—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine today appealed to the warring sides in Moldova to immediately stop military actions, disband armed formations and sit at the negotiation's table.

In a statement circulated here, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine once again reaffirmed its readiness to assist in finding a peaceful solution to the confrontation and proposed to choose a mediator from among the member countries of the UNO, the Conference on Cooperation and Security in Europe (CSCE) or the CIS.

No Mutual Territorial Claims

OW2903141192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Dmitro Pavlychko, head of the Ukrainian parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission who led a delegation of Ukrainian MPs [members of parliament] on a tour of Moldova, "there are no mutual territorial claims between Ukraine and Moldova." Pavlychko stressed that border inviolability is one of Ukraine's key political principles.

Gas Agreement Not Reached With Turkmenistan

LD2803104692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] At the initiative of the Ukrainian side, Ukrainian Prime Minister Vytold Fokin and Turkmen President Niyazov spoke on the telephone about Turkminstan supplying gas to Ukraine. Niyazov said that Turkmenistan will resume gas supplies to Ukraine only after Ukraine removes its ban on exporting goods to that Central Asian republic and only after a preliminary agreement is reached on gas prices. The Turkmen and Ukrainian sides have failed to reach agreement and agreed to continue their search for mutually acceptable solutions.

CIS Gas Pipeline To Be Blocked

LD2903094792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1010 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev—The Ukriane reportedly intends to block, starting from March 30, the pipe-line used by CIS to transport gas to Europe unless Russian President Boris Yeltsin manages to convince Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov to bring Turkmen gas prices to a level acceptable for the Ukraine.

PF [POSTFACTUM] learned from unofficial sources that Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin said this to President Yeltsin over telephone on March 27.

Further on Kravchuk's Visit to India

Visits Bombay

LD2803192692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1450 GMT 28 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] New Delhi March 28 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, now on an official visit to India, began today his visit to Bombay with seeing the export promotion zone of Santa Cruz.

The honoured guest was shown production shops of two factories which specialise on the manufacturing of electronic utensils and jewelry. Besides the production facilities and transport infrastructure, the zone includes residential areas which have all that is necessary for meeting everyday needs of those working in Santa Cruz.

The Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised Kravchuk's meeting with representatives of Indian business circles. They discussed prospects for expanding of bilateral trade and economic relations between India and Ukraine.

Holds News Conference

LD3003130292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The official visit of Ukraine's president to India ended on 29 March. Today Leonid Kravchuk returned to Kiev. The main result of the visit, in the view of the president, was the signing of an agreement on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and India. Strengthened by agreements on mutual trust in the fields of the economy, trade, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation this document laid some of the foundations for fruitful development of bilateral international relations.

Replying to questions of journalists, who, together with officials, met him at the Borispol Airport, Leonid Kravchuk singled out that the astmosphere of the meetings was friendly. It could be felt that the attitude toward Ukraine was respectful as a European state with a great potential and great culture. He said that there exist long-standing ties between Ukraine and India and that our country does not have to start from scratch. We must only expand, continue and strengthen these ties.

Of those contacts which existed with the former Soviet Union 60 percent concerned Ukraine directly. Thus we can deepen cooperation with India and this should be done as soon as possible.

Visit, Statements by CIS General Evaluated

LD2903042592 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Now here is a short commentary by the press center of the capital's directorate for the security service of Ukraine concerning a visit to the Uzin Air Force division and the appearance there by Petr Deynikin, Air Force general from Moscow: At the assembly of aircrew commanders, the Russian guest said that the swearing of oaths of allegiance to Ukraine was a hasty decision. He was trying, in effect, to put pressure on the command of the division. Similar visits would not be beneficial for the normalization of the troops situation or the improvement of relations between Ukraine and Russia. Some unbalanced evaluations and statements by a representative of a neighboring state could be interpreted as actions aimed at harming the sovereignty of Ukraine and interference in its internal affairs.

National Affairs

Parliament Doubts Legality of Presidential Acts

LD2903173992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1447 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev—Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Vladimir Grinev says the Ukrainian Parliament doubts the constitutionality of certain presidential acts. In his interview with PF [POSTFACTUM], Vladimir Grinev disclosed that the Presidium of the Ukrainian Parliament had drafted a document putting in doubt the constitutionality of certain ministerial appointments the Ukrainian president had made without prior agreement with or confirmation by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

There is no official decision on this matter yet. In this connection local politicians noted that almost 80 per cent of all new ministers come from the former party-administrative bureaucracy.

Law Offers Guarantees for Foreign Investors

OW2803155492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in Kiev Friday [27 March] on a law "On foreign investments in Ukraine", Ukrainian people's deputy Aleksandr Duntau assured that "investments can by no means be nationalized or confiscated". The law was adopted by the national parliament earlier this month.

According to the independent news agency "Respublika", Duntau said that foreign investors would be granted compensation for losses in the event of earthquakes, disasters, etc. Joint ventures will enjoy tax benefits and those investing in Ukrainian foreign economic priority programs will have even more priviliges.

The law considerably facilitated the procedure for registrating joint ventures: it will take no more than 3 days. A specially created auditing committee will have sole control over joint ventures' activities. Foreign investors will be able to bring necessary equipment and raw materials in Ukraine duty-free, as well as take out of Ukraine goods and raw materials bought in the republic for rubles, coupons or hard currency without license.

Capital Nationalization Excluded

LD2703223392 Moscow TASS in English 1851 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Kiev March 27 TASS—The foreign investment law, which is to come into force in Ukraine from 31 March, will for the first time legally exclude any possibility of nationalization of foreign capital in any condition and circumstances, it was announced here today at a press conference of Ukrainian parliament representatives.

It was noted that this law is only the beginning of the legal basis of foreign economic activities of Ukraine. Other legal acts are also going to be promulgated in the future. Work on barter relations bills, foreign currency taxation law and other laws is already underway. Foreign investment law will not only help attract foreign capital, but will help coordinate programmes of their applications as well.

At present, out of 400 joint enterprises set up in Ukraine, only 60 to 80 are working normally, the announcement said.

Changes to Local Soviets Law Adopted

LD2803120292 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session adopted amendments to the law on local soviets of people's deputies and local self-government. Amendments were introduced concerning both powers of local soviets and the division of authority between representative and state bodies of government. The name of the law has been changed to the law on local soviets of people's deputies and local and regional self-government. The Supreme Soviet also adopted a law on internal troops and convoy troops. The Supreme Soviet resolved to restore the old name of Alchevsk to the town of Kommunarsk in Lugansk Oblast. The Supreme Soviet session will continue its work today.

Rukh Leader Criticizes Kravchuk Appointments

OW2703201192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1855 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lvov regional Soviet Chairman, Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil has criticized the Ukrainian President's choice of his representatives locally. He claimed at a news conference in Lvov today that at least eight in ten representatives appointed by Kravchuk were former CPSU apparatchiks.

Chornovil is worried by the worsening economic situation in the region. He believes a reason for the crisis is the extraordinary high taxes on enterprises that resulted in the production decline, especially that of manufactures.

Western Operational Command Formed in Carpathia

OW2703181192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commander of the Carpathian military district Lieutenant General Valeriy Stepanov said that a western Ukraine operational command will be formed in the district.

Stepanov said that 680 officers of the Carpathian military district who did not pledge loyalty to Ukraine have been transferred to the Commonwealth Armed Forces.

Moldova

'Text' of State of Emergency Decreed by Snegur

AU2803142192 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1220 GMT 28 Mar 92

["Text" of decree on "Declaring a State of Emergency Throughout the Republic of Moldova" issued by President Mircea Snegur on 28 March—recorded from Chisinau Radio]

[Text] This is Radio Romania's Current Events program. It is 1420. Today, the leadership of the Republic of Moldova held a working session with the participation of the presidents of rayon executive committees and the city mayors. President Mircea Snegur presented arguments in favor of the need to decree a state of emergency throughout the Republic of Moldova. Here is this decree recorded a few minutes ago from Chisinau Radio Station.

[Begin Chisinau Radio recording] This is the text of the decree of the president of the Republic of Moldova, signed today, 28 March 1992.

On Declaring a State of Emergency Throughout the Republic of Moldova

For more than two years, Moldova's peace-loving people have been subjected to mockery and humiliation and their legitimate rights and interests have been violated by various adventurers who left their homelands and came to our republic in search of happiness. Enjoying outside support and proving a kind of impertinence that has been rarely met in history, they created a pseudo-state on the left bank of Moldova's Dniester River. Arming themselves to the teeth with the most modern armaments of the Soviet Army, they have now raised themselves in the defense of that pseudo-state against the alleged danger—invented by themselves—from the native population, citizens of various nationalities who have lived in peace and understanding for centuries on end. The political conflict triggered by them and supported from the outside has degenerated—through the ill-will of these pretenders to ancient (?Russian) lands—into an armed conflict. The confrontation has reached its culmination. The concrete measures adopted by the republic's parliament and government to politically solve the conflict failed, despite the support they enjoyed from the peace-loving Moldovan people. Any such measures and proposals have been rejected by the separatists in the most impudent way possible. They do not want to listen to the voice of reason and they cannot and will not do so, due to their outlook on the world, dressed in fascist and communist attire.

By liquidating all legal statal structures on the left bank of the Dniester and creating an information vacuum—thus depriving the population of its legitimate right to objective information—the separatists have created a situation of mass psychosis in the Dniester region and of permanent fear of upcoming attacks from Romanians. Despite the fact that the Republic of Moldova was recognized by the world community as an independent state and full member of the United Nations, the separatist leaders continue to intimidate the people by venturing the danger of the union with Romania. Moreover, the separatists are doing their best to involve the 14th Army of the CIS Joint Forces in this conflict.

Taking advantage of the humane sentiments of soldiers and officers who do not dare to use force against women and the masses of excited people, the separatist supporters make their way into military installations, parking lots, and depots by force and lay hands on weapons and military hardware. Those who do not want to contribute to the start of a civil war are insulted, kidnapped, maltreated, submitted to systematic terror, and accused of treason.

Being thus intimidated and deceived, a part of the people in that area have succumbed to fear for themselves and their children—a natural feeling in such a situation—without realizing that they are committing a crime against their own people. The Cossacks and the guardists are driving away the Moldovans and representatives of other peoples from their own homes for the sole reason that they advocate a peaceful, united, and indivisible Moldova. Undesirable persons are being exterminated in the proper meaning of the word. Fire is opened without any kind of warning. The atrocities committed by the bandits in the republic's rayons on the left bank of the Dniester have exceeded even the crimes committed by the fascists. This amounts to nothing but genocide against the native population.

Such a situation can no longer be tolerated. In order to prevent the further escalation of tension, to ensure the state's security and the republic's territorial integrity, and to implement the 19 March 1992 decision of the parliament of the Republic of Moldova on measures to normalize the political situation in the republic—to the extent of reestablishing the legal structures of the state power and state administration and defending the rights of the citizens on the left bank of the Dniester—I decided the following, in accordance with Point 13 of Article 113/3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and with Articles 1, 2, 3, 12, and 13 of the Law of the Republic of Moldova on the Legal Framework of the State of Emergency and Special Forms of Administration of the Republic of Moldova:

One: A state of emergency is declared throughout the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

Two: The direct leadership of the Republic by the president of the Republic of Moldova, through the Supreme Security Council of the Republic of Moldova is instituted.

Three: To ensure the leadership of the territories under the state of emergency, the presidents of rayon executive committees and the mayors of cities with republican subordination will urgently set up and support special exceptional committees consisting of 11-15 people.

Four: Special exceptional committees will be invested with special powers on their territories, as stipulated by Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Moldova on the Legal Framework of the State of Emergency and Special Forms of Administration in the Republic of Moldova.

Five: The implementation of the state of emergency steps and the special forms of leadership will be ensured by the employees of the legal bodies and by the forces of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of National Security of the Republic of Moldova, and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova, who will operate in keeping with the Constitution and other laws of the Republic of Moldova.

Six: The Ministry of National Security of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Interior, and other legal bodies—in conjunction with the units of the national Army being set up now—should take all necessary steps stipulated by law in order to: liquidate and disarm illegal armed groupings; search for, detain, and sue in court all those who committed serious state crimes and other crimes against the republic's state bodies and peaceful population; ensure the guarding, security, and proper conditions for the activity of special provisional bodies of the state power and administration; properly supervise state border crossings; prevent the arrival of Cossacks, mercenaries, and other criminal elements in the republic; disarm the citizens who joined illegal armed groupings and participated in anticonstitutional actions and hand them over to the justice bodies; keep records of the people who willingly turn over their weapons and ammunition to the legal power organs, with a view to their later amnesty; and support and aid the citizens of the Republic of Moldova who had to take up arms to defend their country and legitimate rights.

Seven: The proposal is put again to the initiators and accomplices in the creation of the so-called Dniestrian Moldovan Republic and to its illegal armed groupings to dissolve their formations and to voluntarily surrender themselves to the legal bodies, in order to solve the question of their penal or other responsibilities for their actions.

Eight: The present decree takes effect as of 2000 local time on 28 March 1992 and will be effective until the state of emergency is revoked.

I call on all people of good faith and all inhabitants in the Republic of Moldova's rayons on the left bank of the Dniester River who want peace and tranquility to unite themselves around the justice bodies and other bodies of the legal state power and grant them all possible assistance in their complex and dangerous work to reestablish peace and order in the republic.

[Signed] Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova. Chisinau City, 28 March 1992.

President Snegur Issues Appeal to Nation

AU2803210192 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Appeal by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur to the nation made in Chisinau on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] Honored fellow citizens: The burden of our kindness weighs very heavily, threatening to crush us now more then ever before. It is the third year since a handful of very insolent foreigners, uniting with the [word indistinct] and traitors of the nation, have been constantly harassing us in our own country.

The disquieting situation, the uncertainty in our tomorrow, and the fear for the lives of our relatives and for the lives of each of us always weighs heavily on us. Now, it is directly pointing at us from the barrel of a gun. This is the end of our patience. How characteristic this good human nature is to our peace-loving people!

God is our witness that we have never wanted bloodshed and have always rejected the idea of direct confrontation, calming down as much as we could all attempts at violence on Moldova's soil.

Understand, dear fellow citizens, that now, when every hour could increase the loss of innocent human lives, each of you is (?entitled) to turn to the state leaders, not so much with appeals but to ask for decisions that would undo once and for all this twisted knot of our times. That is why I can no longer repeat those appeals that I had to and was willing to address to you, every time the sham separatist leaders resorted to their dirty actions to bring about a deterioration of the situation, in order to turn us back under the red banners of a loss of national awareness and slavery.

As a matter of fact, I call on all people of good faith in the rayons on the left bank of the Dniester, in the localities with majority Gagauz population, and the whole nation, while nurturing the hope that those who want to harm us will finally quiet down. We sincerely and in a humane way believed in it even on that night of 2 November 1990 when, on the telephone from Moscow, through the National Radio Television, so that the whole republic should hear me, I said: Good fellows, stop! Then, at the last moment, massive clashes were stopped that could have resulted in thousands of corpses both in Criuleni-Dubossary as well as Varnita and in other localities.

Hope for a peaceful solution to the problems was placed in the positions to be adopted by Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine as a result of the visits planned for 12-13 December last year in the capital cities of these countries. The loss of life around Dubossary on the morning of 13 December removed this hope, too. The appeal to reason again failed to be heard because the actions of the men of Smirnov and Maracuta, which have already become customary, who with every concrete step that we

have taken on the road toward the peaceful establishment of the independent state have answered with more killings and violent actions.

On 2 March 1992, the separatists were greatly upset by the decision that the Republic of Moldova was received in the United Nations, and they rushed with armored vehicles at the peaceful population, who do not share their absurd concepts. The last attack [word indistinct] on 23 March, which resulted in new victims, was the effect of the agonizing reaction to the declaration by the heads of the CSCE states, in which they proclaimed the basic element of their policy on relations with the Republic of Moldova: that is, the preservation of its territorial integrity.

The circle of total internal and international isolation of the Smirnov terrorists is getting narrower every passing day. Even the Cossack mercenaries themselves have started realizing with whom they are dealing. [word indistinct] bitterness and hatred of the indigenous population has exceeded the national boundaries. People who come from the right bank of the Dniester to help are determined to sacrifice their lives for the freedom of people living here. These attempts to transform a part of the independent state of Moldova into a military communist concentration camp will certainly fail because this will not be permitted by our supreme power: namely, the people. The leadership of the republic that has the mandate of the people's confidence will always be together with the people.

Therefore, the knife has reached the bone. Patience has reached its limit and the reconciliation that I have always appealed for—and I thank the people for listening to me—can no longer help us. Our national dignity is threatened. Let us defend it with honor by giving an appropriate retort to the intruder separatists, the traitors Maracuta, Caraman, (?Chitan), and the others of their kind.

I want to stress on this occasion, too, that people of good faith, regardless of their ethnic affiliation, have and will continue to have equal rights as citizens of the independent and democratic state named the Republic of Moldova. Likewise, in accordance with a presidential decree, unconditional amnesty will be granted to all those who willingly turn in their weapons to the legal bodies of the Republic of Moldova.

Introducing the state of emergency on the whole territory of the republic is conditioned by the situation that has been aggravated to the maximum as a result of the criminal actions of the pro-imperial forces on the left bank of the Dniester.

At the same time, on the one hand, our lives are threatened while, on the other hand, we are constantly exposed to unjustified criticism. Thus, during the period of the state of emergency, all citizens of the country are duty bound to exactly observe the provisions of the presidential decree and to carry out the orders of the local executive bodies, the legal bodies, and those that are superior to them.

Fellow citizens, the time has come when we cannot delay putting our own house in order the way we want to do it. This decision and this appeal is in complete accordance with the principles of international forums regarding the fundamental rights of people. We can no longer tolerate being mocked by Smirnov and Andreyeva supporters. Please be morally prepared and at any moment be ready to respond to the call of the homeland, which is in great danger.

We should be united and we will win. So help us God!

Chisinau Announces Emergency Restrictions

AU2803194292 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Report by Chisinau correspondent Gabriel Ionescu]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, tonight at 2000, President Mircea Snegur's decree on the introduction of the state of emergency on the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova came into force.

The director of the government's Center for Political Analysis and Prognosis declared that these measures attempt to curb the possibility of a large-scale war. The decree and Mircea Snegur's appeal to the population have been repeatedly broadcast by Radio Chisinau.

The Chisinau Mayoralty announced the first measures for the implementation of the state of emergency, which was decided by the committee that has been set up for this purpose. All mass demonstrations are banned on the territory of the town. Stores selling food and industrial goods will close at 2000. The sale of alcoholic beverages in stores and outside stores has been prohibited. Restaurants, cafes, and other food catering units will close at 2000. Citizens of the capital city were requested to keep calm and respect public order and also observe the working hours.

At the hour when Chisinau radio and television announced the decree on the state of emergency, a rally was being held on the left bank of the Dniester River in the locality of Ribita, occasioned by the liberation of the last guardsman, in accordance with the protocol concluded yesterday by the Conciliation Commission. The local radio station called on the people in the central square of Ribita town to take a so-called stand in connection with the presidential decree. An atmosphere of uncertainty and panic prevails in the town of Ribita, Chisinau Radio announced.

The Republic of Moldova Ministry of Interior's Press Bureau announced that this afternoon at 1630, a bus that was travelling on the Tighina-Causeni route was stopped by armed separatists. They took 15 men as prisoners and left in an unknown direction.

Reliable sources in Tiraspol announced that immediately after the decree and the appeal of the president of the republic were broadcast, a special plane landed at the military airport of the locality with Boris Pyankov, Marshal Shaposhnikov's deputy, on board. No other details are known.

Also in Tiraspol, we have heard that the leader of the separatists, Smirnov, issued a decree introducing traffic restrictions for the night between 2200 and 0600.

A few minutes ago, we learned that the residents on the left bank of the Dniester, both Romanians and Ukrainians as well, received with satisfaction the decree issued by President Mircea Snegur on the introduction of the state of emergency. Decisive measures by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova are expected to bring peace back to these regions.

Prime Minister Muravschi Holds News Conference

AU2903185192 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Dispatch from "special envoy in Chisinau" Gabriel Ionescu—recorded]

[Text] Mr. Valeriu Muravschi, prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, held a news conference at government headquarters today on the introduction of a state of emergency throughout the republic. Along with the prime minister, Mr. Ion Chirtoaca, presidential counselor for military affairs, and Gheorghe Mazilu, acting president of the Parliamentary Commission for State Security and Military Affairs, answered the questions of some 100 journalists from Romania, Moldova, and other countries in the world. Here are a few ideas presented during that news conference.

The prime minister said that all proposals for a peaceful solution of the conflict were rejected by the separatist leaders, who created paramilitary groupings—the so-called National Guard—and called upon the Cossacks for help. The arrival of the Cossack mercenaries was termed an intervention in Moldova's internal affairs.

Mr. Muravschi said that there are now scores of dead and hundreds of wounded as well as thousands of refugees on the right bank of the Dniester and in the Ukraine, following nonobservance of civil rights in the Dniester region. Paramilitary troops crossed over onto the right bank of the Dniester and occupied positions in Tighina and Gisca. Until yesterday, 14 policemen and civilians lost their lives; the separatists lost 40-50 men.

Mr. Muravschi said that anti-Romanian sentiment is further encouraged on the left bank of the Dniester, by making speculations about the Republic of Moldova's unification with Romania. This is totally groundless, given the existence of a declaration of independence of the Republic of Moldova, which is supported by the majority of the population. Moldova's independence is also supported by the world community. Embassies were opened in Chisinau, first of all that of Romania. The prime minister added that the parliament and the government will take all the necessary domestic and external steps to ensure Moldova's independence.

Referring to the situation on the left bank of the Dniester, Mr. Muravschi said, quote: We do not renounce the political and peaceful road for solving the conflict. We continue to maintain our stand. However, we are convinced that it is almost impossible to solve the problem with the leaders on the left bank of Dniester River, end quote. Consequently, other categories of people should participate in the process of peacefully solving the conflict, primarily the managers of economic units and representatives of the working class.

One of the questions put by the journalists referred to a possible request for foreign military aid from neighboring states. The prime minister said that the situation on the left bank of the Dniester is an internal affair, but if the republic's Supreme Security Council believes that foreign help may be needed, then it will turn to whomever it deems fit.

The previously announced news item, that Boris Pyankov, Marshal Shaposhnikov's deputy, arrived in Tiraspol yesterday, was confirmed during the news conference by Mr. Ion Chirtoaca. The latter added that the Soviet [as heard] general's visit is related to the unrest in the 14th Army, following the pressure exerted upon the officers by the separatist leaders.

Answering a question about official reactions to the introduction of the state of emergency, Mr. Valeriu Muravschi said that the Romanian Government supports the measures envisaged in President Mircea Snegur's decree. The prime minister said that yesterday he talked on the telephone with the Ukrainian prime minister, who expressed concern over the situation on the left bank of the Dniester River. The Ukraine, Mr. Muravschi said, is aware of the fact that a destabilization of the situation in the Republic of Moldova would have repercussions on the population of Ukrainian descent, who might then look for refuge beyond Moldova's eastern borders.

More on Muravschi's Remarks

LD3003013792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Moldovan Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi has said that the 14th Army, which is stationed on the republic's territory, is remaining neutral and ignoring demands to hand out weapons. We will support the Army's leaders in this, the prime minister declared at a news conference in Chisinau. He confirmed that some installations on the left bank of the Dniester had been mined, as well as rumors that local authorities on the right bank had disarmed some military units [not further identified].

The prime minister did not rule out the possibility of an appeal to other countries for military aid, adding that a decision to do so would be made not by parliament but by the republic's Extraordinary Security Committee. Muravschi considers the conflict with the Dniester region to be of an exclusively political nature, not an ethnic matter.

Snegur, Other Officials Visit Conflict Area

AU3003094992 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Dispatch "received half an hour ago from Chisinau correspondent Gabriel Ionescu"—recorded]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Parliament President Alexandru Mosanu crossed the Dniester River yesterday and visited Cosnita and Cocieri, two villages within the crisis area on the left bank of the river. They were accompanied by Interior Minister Constantin Antoci, National Security Minister Anatol Plugaru, and the president of the Parliamentary Commission for Fighting Criminality, Victor (?Brezinschi).

The officials investigated the current situation and the frame of mind of the police employees and local defense volunteers after the implementation of a state of emergency throughout Moldova. Their first stop was at the canning plant in Cosnita, where the first defense line was established recently. The local volunteers who have been assisting police recently told us about attacks of armed bandits against noncombatants with [word indistinct] rockets. There have been several casualties, including children. Eight homes were destroyed and the kindergarten burned. Snegur said that he will act today to allocate the necessary funds to rebuild the homes.

Snegur and Mosanu agreed with the fighters that the separatists should receive a firm response. The leadership of the republic also deserves a certain amount of blame, Snegur said. Now that we are convinced that there is no one to talk with, however, we will take all possible measures to reestablish the legal authorities. We must do this with the minimum amount of sacrifice, he said.

The leaders visited the general staff headquarters, where they were informed about the events in the Cosnita area. They then went to Malovata, where they crossed the Dniester by ferry and arrived in Cocieri. Here, on the territory of the former military unit which now belongs to the defenders of Moldova, they met with police and civilian volunteers. Snegur thanked them for their commitment and added that mutual encouragement is necessary in these times.

Esteemed listeners, automatic weapons and explosions of the Grad-type rockets of the separatists could be heard all day yesterday in the conflict area. Several police checkpoints were established on the Chisinau-Tighina route. The chief of police in Soroca Rayon said that shots were fired at policemen near the city limits of Tighina. No casualties were reported. The guardsmen tried to penetrate the line of defense and establish a stronghold near Varnita. The attack was repulsed, however, by police and local residents. A civilian was wounded and immediately taken to the New [word indistinct] Hospital.

The Foreign Ministry press bureau announced that Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu held telephone talks yesterday with the foreign ministers of Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. Both Romania and Ukraine reaffirm their firm positions expressed in the Helsinki declaration, stating that the only way out of the deadlock is to immediately withdraw the Cossack mercenaries, disarm the separatist guardsmen, and reestablish the legitimate authorities in the conflict area.

During the talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Tiu expressed the Moldovan position on the issue. Kozyrev was told that Moldova does not understand Russia's position. After the signing of the Kiev and Helsinki declarations and instead of moving to withdraw the Cossack mercenaries and disarm the guardsmen, the Russian Foreign Ministry declares in another telegram its concern about the worsening situation and tries to blame both sides for what is happening. This puts the Moldovan Government and the separatists in Tiraspol on equal ground. Tiu asked the Russian Government to express its position clearly in regard to the separatist elements.

Tajikistan

Rally Held Outside President's Residence

Demands Kendzhayev's Resignation

MK2803131192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Mar 92 p 1

[Oleg Panfilov report under the "Tajikistan" rubric: "Living Battering Ram Breaks Through Cordon"]

[Text] The rally which began on the morning of 26 March in Dushanbe lasted all night. That is how the people reacted to the television relay of the Tajik Supreme Soviet Presidium session at which Supreme Soviet Chairman Safarali Kendzhayev accused Minister of Internal Affairs Mamadayez Navzhuvanov of exceeding his authority. A Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution recommending Kendzhayev's removal from office was passed. In turn Navzhuvanov accused the Supreme Soviet chairman of discrimination against mountain people. The program was relayed throughout the republic and in the morning a group of 500 to 600 people, mostly from Pamir, gathered on the square next to the president's residence. The Democratic Party of Tajikistan and the "Rastokhez" people's movement organized the meeting.

Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent met with Navzhuvanov at his home. But the minister refused to give an interview, noting among other things, that he does not need the job and that the truth is more important. The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent saw for himself that the minister lives in a small four-room apartment with a family of 14, which, of course, is not at all like the privileges which the Supreme Soviet chairman hinted at.

Toward evening, in spite of the sleet, people came to the square, set up tents, and lit fires. The opposition's attempt to speak with President Nabiyev failed since the latter began to lay down conditions. At about that time Major General Martovitskiy, deputy commander of the Central Asian Border District, and Colonel Zabolotnyy, commander of the Dushanbe Garrison, arrived at the residence. They did not say why they had come, but clearly Nabiyev had summoned the servicemen to help. Early in the morning on 27 March the square was surrounded by 2 rows of militiamen and soldiers armed with rubber batons and shields. However, the demonstrators broke through the chain, after which the lieutenant colonel commanding the company ordered his subordinates to leave the square. The militiamen remained, but they also soon put aside their shields and attentively listened to the speakers.

According to unconfirmed reports, airplanes bringing in troops were seen at the Dushanbe airport.

By 1400 hours on 27 March there were around 3,000 people on the square. The opposition leaders, determined to "stand firm to the last," put forward the following demands: a public apology and the resignation of Supreme Soviet Chairman Kendzhayev; the resignation of the parliament; and the freeing of Dushanbe Mayor Ikromov, who was arrested on 6 March. From time to time the square exploded with chants of "down with the dictatorship" and "down with parliament." The speakers appealed to people of all nationalities to join forces with them.

'Unauthorized' Rally Continues

OW2803180392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Tajikistan Rakhman Nabiyev congratulated Mirzotimur Mirzoyev on his nomination as chairman of the Dushanbe executive committee.

Former Dushanbe Mayor Maksud Ikramov is in custody on charges of corruption and abuse of power.

The opposition describes his imprisonment as "an act of political terrorism" and insists on an open trial.

Meanwhile, an unauthorized rally continues for the third day in the Tajik capital near the Cabinet building and the presidential residence. The demonstrators demand the resignation of Chairman of parliament, new parliamentary elections, and the release of Maksud Ikramov.

The rally follows the Tajik parliament Presidium's decision to dismiss Interior Minister Mamadayez Navzhuvanov for ingoring orders by supreme bodies, "grossly violating personnel policy, closing his eyes to abuse of state transportation means and displaying personal immodesty".

The organization "Lali Badakhshon" and the Shiite Muslim community "Nasiri Hisrov" labeled this decision an infringement on the prestige and rights of Pamir natives and staged a round-the- clock rally on the central square of Dushanbe in defense of Navzhuvanov, native of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region which is seeking the status of a republic.

Nabiyev Interviewed on Rally, Relations

LD2903154992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1120 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Interview with President Rakhman Nabiyevich Nabiyev with correspondents Andrey Georgiyevich Skryabin, Makhmud Shakhobiddinov, and Lyudmila Olegovna Telen; and with questions from viewers; Nabiyev and Shakhobiddinov in Dushanbe, Skryabin and Telen in Ostankino Moscow studio; from the "Live Dialogue" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Skryabin] Hello, esteemed television viewers. In the "Live Dialogue" program today, we have a television bridge linking Dushanbe and Moscow, and

you are to meet President Rakhman Nabiyev of Tajikistan. Hello, Rakhman Nabiyevich.

[Nabiyev] Hello.

[Skryabin] My colleague Makhmud Shakhobiddinov is in the Dushanbe studio, and I am working here at Ostankino with Lyudmila Telen [identified by caption as Lyudmila Olegovna Telen of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] I am journalist Andrey Skryabin. [passage omitted]

[Shakhnobiddinov] We are getting lots of questions in too, and in particular, a large group of viewers from Dushanbe asks: For the fourth day running now, an unauthorized meeting is under way near the building where you work. Rakhman Nabiyevich, what is your opinion of this meeting?

[Skryabin] I might add that we have also had questions from Dushanbe, Moscow, and other towns. Makhmud Babayev from Dushanbe asks: the crime situation is getting worse and worse in Dushanbe. The firing of Navzhuvanov [Tajik internal affairs minister] is destabilizing the situation further. Can the president give a guarantee that there will be no military action?

[Nabiyev] Such a meeting has indeed been going on here for four days now, and the number of participants was given as somewhere around 200-250 by yesterday evening, and today as rather more than 1,000. The reason for this meeting is that the Presidium of the republican Supreme Soviet discussed the matter of the activity of the republican Ministry of Internal Affairs.

When this debate was being prepared, many cases of infringements and abuse of official position by the minister of internal affairs, Comrade Navzhuvanov, came to light. Among other things, I was told that over 130 cars belonging to the Ministry of Internal Affairs were sold contrary to regulations to Ministry of Internal Affairs staff, primarily to officials.

And the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision, that is, it expressed a lack of confidence in our minister, and asked me, as the president, to consider his further employment. This was the main thing—the proceedings of the Presidium session were relayed on local television. This sparked off the rally, on the grounds that Comrade Navzhuvanov had been unjustly dismissed. I asked him to come and see me the same day, but he was unable to do so for health reasons, nor was he able to the next day.

Well, two days ago we had a detailed conversation together. He asked me to set up an objective commission to check the individual facts. This decision was adopted, and a commission has been set up headed by Comrade Mirzoyev, the chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers. On this commission are specialists, representatives of the Democratic Party, representatives of the Rastakhez movement, and a representative of the Islamic Revival Party. We will check the facts.

But the following day, Comrade Navzhuvanov addressed the demonstrators and said that he had no questions and that he had come to agreement with the president, and now he is making other demands. Among other things, he is demanding the dissolution of parliament, the resignation of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and the release of the chairman, the former chairman, that is, of the Dushanbe city executive committee who, on the authority of the republican procurator's office, was arrested in accordance with the Supreme Soviet session and the Dushanbe city soviet. This is why ... [change thought] Well, as for the dissolution of parliament, the president does not have the right to do this, as you know.

The draft of a new constitution is currently being drawn up, it should be published in the next few days for nationwide discussion, and if such rights are granted to the president, then it will be possible to decide this issue.

As for releasing Comrade Ikramov, the former chairman of the city executive committee, I cannot give any assessments of his actions here. The competent bodies, first and foremost the court, will determine his degree of guilt: If he is guilty, then he should be held accountable before the laws of the republic. If he has been arrested unjustly, then those comrades who authorized his arrest should be held accountable before the law.

[Telen] Mr. President, Tajikistan would seem to be the only former Soviet republic that has preserved an influential Communist Party. In addition, as far as I know, there are also two clearly socialist-oriented parties. We can all see [Nabiyev is sitting next to a Tajik flag] that the Tajikistan state flag has kept the hammer and sickle and the star. Can you please tell us whether these socialist- or Communist-oriented parties are the support of the president in Tajikistan?

[Nabiyev] I have grasped your question, Lyudmila Olegovna. At the last congress of the Communist Party, the party was preserved, and you quite correctly point out that in the republic there is also the Democratic Party, there is the Islamic Revival Party, there is the Rastakhez movement, and other movements. As for my personal attitude to these, I am ready to sit down to talk with them and am ready for dialogue, but only if they also want to fight so that we should emerge from the present state of crisis. And if they really do want to fight to ensure that in the near future the standard of living of the people of Tajikistan is raised, then I am ready to cooperate with them.

But I should point out that when I was nominated as a candidate for president of the republic, none of these parties, including the Communist Party, nominated me for that post. It was labor collectives and working people in the localities who nominated me for president of the republic.

[Telen] So, is there no party that you would describe as the party of the president?

[Nabiyev] There is no such party. In one of my speeches, I said that since I had been elected by the people, then my party is the people. I must serve the people, I must defend the interests of the people. [passage omitted]

[Shakhobiddinov] [passage omitted] Viewers, and they include participants in the rallies, want to know the president's view of the incident in which the aircraft of the Iranian vice president was barred from Dushanbe.

[Nabiyev] Yes, there is this issue. Three days ago I had a meeting with the republic's creative intelligentsia. Very respected academicians and scientists were present, and this question arose then. I was in Kiev at the time. You will know that we had the latest session of the CIS countries there on 20 March. He was not in Dushanbe. He was not even on the border. No one, not even the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, knew of the vice president's visit. I believe there are certain international rules governing this. They should have somehow informed us of the intended visit so that we could prepare to meet and receive him. Naturally, we could not receive him. He did not come to Dushanbe.

[Telen] There are various assessments of the prospects for the development of the Commonwealth of Independent States, just as there are different assessments of the recent meeting in Kiev. In your view, is the CIS a transitional form of some sort of more integrated system—a federation, for instance—or, conversely, is the CIS in fact a bridge to the completely independent existence of the former Soviet republics?

[Nabiyev] Lyudmila Olegovna, I understand your question. I think that during all the past years in the former union our republics—now members of the Commonwealth of Independent States—have become inter-linked to such an extent. I can judge by Tajikistan. For instance, there are hundreds of items that we either supply to, or receive from, all the CIS republics. So, to judge by Tajikistan, it would, of course, be very difficult to develop without our, primarily economic links with the other former union republics. I was asked this question in Kiev. I think that we are going to have to strengthen this cooperation so that it really is a commonwealth, so that we can realize the difficulties and problems of each republic, because we also supply our raw materials to many other republics and other oblasts of the Russian Federation. If these economic links are destroyed, I think that it will be very difficult to ensure the normal development of all the branches of the republic's national economy.

So, as far as Tajikistan is concerned, we will do all we can to strengthen this Commonwealth and avoid disrupting our ancient ties.

[Telen] But do you think the creation of a new unified state on the territory of the USSR is possible?

[Nabiyev] The question of a new form of state did not actually arise there, but no doubt we will need to have bodies of some sort which in a general way will monitor fulfillment of the agreements concluded among those states.

[Skryabin] I see, thank you. If you will allow me, I have a whole string of questions dealing with the external political and external economic activities of the republic. In one of them, Yevgeniy Gusev from Moscow asks: "Which way do you look—toward Central Asia, China, or Russia? How are your relations with Afghanistan developing? Pavel Ivanovich Vysotskiy from Yekaterinburg: Don't you think Tajikistan is obviously supporting the Afghan mujahidin, especially the Tajik groups? Are the actions of certain political forces in Tajikistan leading to an ethnic split in neighboring Afghanistan? So I have this string of questions. Perhaps the issue could be put in this way: What is the external political orientation today of the republic and of its president?

[Nabiyev] Well, as far as our external economic policy is concerned, we want to make use of the experience of all the countries of the world, so as to study and use that experience in our own country. But the yardstick as such, whether it will be an Afghan one, or a Chinese one, or whatever: I think it will be our own experience, Tajik experience. But we will have to study the experience of other countries, including our neighbors Iran, Afghanistan, China, India, Pakistan. We do indeed have, as I have said, about 1,400 km of border with Afghanistan and the fact that fratricidal war is going on there means we should reach an agreement so that there may be no fraticidal war there. Well, as for particulars—perhaps they want to exploit that to bring about—so that we have an interest in seeing a split in that, well, in any case we have no such issue. [sentence as heard]

[Skryabin] Rakhman Nabiyevich, let me put that more sharply. Is that not what is at issue, and how do you personally feel about it? Should we wash our hands of everything that is happening in our country, in our former Soviet Union, and orientate ourselves entirely toward the southern countries—Saudi Arabia and so on?

[Nabiyev] Andrey Georgiyevich, some comrades do indeed put such questions to me when speaking personally. We will not, I think, follow such a path. Some people even ask things like: Why deal with Russia, with Ukraine, and Belarus, when you could deal with states around you in Central Asia, with the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, with your neighbors. I think this is wrong, we must cooperate with all countries of the world, on a mutually beneficial basis. [passage omitted]

[Shakhobiddinov] I will continue the same theme. The following question has come in: According to various estimates, between 3 and 7 million Tajiks live in Afghanistan. What will relations with this country be like, will we have cultural ties with fellow countrymen in that country, and not only in that country?

[Nabiyev] [passage omitted] I can answer this question like this: In September it is planned to hold a forum of our Tajiks and our fellow countrymen in Dushanbe.

That is in September. We will be holding this forum to discuss these problems with our neighbors, and I will take this opportunity to invite all Tajiks and our fellow countrymen from other countries.

[Telen] Esteemed president, since I am a journalist myself and there are very many questions from and about journalists, I will permit myself to ask these questions. Aleksandr Ivanovich Petrov, a Moscow viewer, asks: How did the IZVESTIYA correspondent displease the Tajikistan leadership? Why do they want to throw the journalist out of the republic? This question relates not only to Aleksandr Karpov, but also to the amendments introduced into the press law and to freedom of speech in general in Tajikistan. Would you answer this question, please?

[Nabiyev] Lyudmila Olegovna, we are aware you are a journalist, we know you well in Tajikistan. I am personally acquainted with Karpov, and I know him well. His case was discussed by the Presidium of the Republican Supreme Soviet. I did not deal with this matter, he has not appealed to me on this matter, even though we have recently seen one another since then. As for other journalists, I should like to take this opportunity to appeal to all journalists to ensure that the information published in the press is objective. There have been some unobjective reports. As for the press law, this decision has been taken. The latest amendments refer to personal insults. I think personal insults should not be made, all in all. [passage omitted]

[Skryabin] A Moscow entrepreneur, Aleksandr Nikolayevich Khvashchev, asks: Throughout history the Fergana valley has been a bone of contention between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Should one expect a repetition of the Karabakh situation in this region? [passage omitted]

[Nabiyev] Andrey Georgiyevich, where the Fergana valley is concerned, we have Leninabad Oblast in the north of Tajikistan which borders on the Fergana valley. Throughout these years we have lived together on friendly terms. We know that there are many Tajiks living in Uzbekistan, just as there are Uzbeks living in Tajikistan, 23 percent of them. We have always lived in peace and friendship. We have always taken joy in our successes, have always suffered together over our misfortunes. But as far as Tajikistan is concerned, I do not believe there will be any conflict like the Karabakh one over the Fergana valley. [passage omitted]

[Telen] There are some worrying questions, including one from Yerevanna Yegoshina from Dushanbe, who asks: Russians are often told: Get out of Tajikistan! If we decide to leave, what help will be given to us? We go to and from work in fear. How will we be treated? This problem clearly exists, and I would like to know how much it worries the president of Tajikistan.

[Nabiyev] [passage omitted] As president, I will do everything possible to ensure that our relations are the most friendly, and that there should be no reproaches and that no one should leave us. It was the events of February 1990 which served as the grounds for all this. Many people left, including high-class specialists, and Tajikistan feels this loss, because it does not have its own cadres. [passage omitted] If there are any such individual incidents, we will have to carry out the appropriate educational work.

[Skryabin] [passage omitted] Izdadayev from Groznyy wants to know how the president regards the Muslim movement. Perhaps we could put the question to the president rather more broadly: What is your attitude to religion and Islam, what is your assessment of the religious factor in the process of democratization, and so on?

[Telen] At the same time I should like to know what you think of the Islamic parties, too.

[Skryabin] Yes, including the fundamentalist parties, so to speak.

[Nabiyev] The comrades asking these questions are aware that there has always been a very high level of religious awareness in Tajikistan. As for Islam, I have great respect for it, as I have for other religions. We do indeed have in Tajikistan the Islamic Revival Party. We work in contact with them, and will continue to do so, but for the well-being of our people, in order to emerge from this crisis situation. [passage omitted]

[Telen] May I ask what is probably the last question. How far is the economic reform being carried out in Tajikistan related to the deformations in economic reform in Russia?

[Nabiyev] Well, we have our own problems. The question of concluding an agreement with the Russian Federation may be studied in the near future. But unfortunately, you know, the first question asked was about that meeting, there are numerous telegrams, today I got telephone calls, I had a meeting today with the minister of foreign affairs of Syria—they are all worried that in the situation today, we should all be engaged in useful labor, should be creating things, all working in our own sector. But unfortunately, as you see, rallies are being held, and we do know know the final goal. [passage omitted]

Alcohol Sales Banned During Ramadan Celebration

LD2703230192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text of "decision" by Tajik Supreme Soviet Presidium]

[Text] Decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan on measures to celebrate Id-i Ramadan [end of Ramadan celebration]. In view of a proposal by the Board of Muslims of the Republic, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan resolves:

1) The oblast, town and rayon executive committees are instructed to take action on the occasion of Id-i

Ramadan, which will be celebrated on 4 April of the current year, in preparing slogans and banners in accordance with rich national (?traditions) and to organize happy events in parks and avenues.

2) On this day, the sale of alcoholic drinks is prohibited all over the Republic of Tajikistan.

3) The Tajik Voice and Vision Company [Shirkat-i Sada va Sima-i Tajik] and other mass media are charged to prepare programs and articles on Id-i Ramadan and present them to people.

[signed] Kenjayev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan

Friendship Agreement Expected With Russia

OW2803160592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Shortly, Boris Yeltsin and Saparmurad Niyazov will meet in Ashkhabad to sign an agreement on friendship and cooperation, the Turkmen president's press service informed IF [INTERFAX].

A representative of the press service said that the two presidents will also sign documents on the establishment of diplomatic relations and on Russia's assistance in the establishment of diplomatic and consular relations between Turkmenistan and other countries.

The Turkmen president's press service also announced that preliminary agreements on the issue were reached during the two presidents' recent telephone talks.

Agreement Signed With Georgia To Ship Goods

LD2703210592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1758 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "External Economic Relations" section]

[Text] Ashkhabad—Turkmenistan plans to ship foreign economic cargoes through Georgian ports. PF [POSTFACTUM] has learned from sources close to managers of Turkmenistan's State Committee for Supplies (Gossnab) that chairman of Turkmenistan's Gossnab Nurmukhammed Khanamov was authorized to raise this issue at talks with the Georgian side. Khanamov flew to Tbilisi together with senior executives of several local ministries on March 27. The intention to use Georgia's Black Sea ports is explained by the suspension in the shipment of Turkmenistan's cargoes via Ukraine, which was caused by differences between the republics over prices on Turkmen gas. Georgian Minister of Materials and Equipment Supply Irakliy Chkheidze said during his visit to Ashkhabad on November 18, 1991, that Georgia was ready to allow Turkmenistan to use its ports to enable the republic to develop its foreign economic ties. The Turkmen delegation also intends to discuss with the Georgian side volumes of reciprocal supplies to prepare an inter-governmental agreement on trade turnover in 1992. Turkmenistan is the traditional supplier of gas, agricultural products, chemicals and equipment for the food industry to Georgia. Georgia, in turn, previously delivered consumer goods, some food products and industrial goods to the Central Asian republic.

Niyazov 'Ready' To Introduce National Currency

LD2703191192 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By TURKMEN-PRESS]

[Text] Ashkhabad March 27 TASS—"We are ready to introduce the national currency, but we will do it only in case the single rouble zone disappears," Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov said during his recent tour of republican western areas.

Niyazov noted this issue, alongside others, is expected to be discussed during Russian President Yeltsin's visit to Turkmenistan to be possibly held in April.

Government To Subsidize Some Goods, Services

LD2803232192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1936 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Ashkhabad—Turkmenistan government is not going to again raise or liberate prices for the commodities sold at the republic internal market. On March 27 Vyacheslav Rashidov, head of department of committee on economics of Turkmenistan presidential council, also told journalists: The issue of further price liberalization is not discussed in the republican government as a possible measure. Although it becomes harder and harder to oppose the spontaneous and unsubstantiated price soaring, the Turkmenistan government will take any possible measure to protect the population from the crisis. There are possibilities for that in the republic, and they have not been exhausted yet. According to Vyacheslav Rashidov, the Turkmenistan state budget includes allocation of R [ruble] 15 billion to subsidize the price for various foodstuffs and the price of some services. This sum comprises over one-fourth of planned expenditure. The basic source for such subsidy is export of gas and cotton fiber at world prices or other similar prices.

Cuban Delegation Arrives for Official Visit

LD2403123192 Moscow TASS in English 0854 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Ashkhabad March 23 TURKMEN-PRESS-TASS —A delegation of the Republic of Cuba arrived for an official visit in Turkmenistan's capital on Monday [23 March]. The delegation headed by First Deputy Foreign

Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo Basulto arrived to establish diplomatic relations between Cuba and Turkmenistan.

Uzbekistan

President Signs Decree on Wages, Pensions

LD2803060892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov today signed a decree on raising pensions, grants, and wages for the staffs of budget organizations. A minimum wage of 550 rubles has been established on the territory of the Republic, and the same minimum level has been established for pensions.

Republic To Have Own Armed Forces

LD2803171792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1010 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tashkent—Uzbekistan Minister of Defense Major General Rustam Akhmedov: We have the right to have our own Army. Major General Akhmedov also told PF [POSTFACTUM] that the republic is creating its armed forces on an appropriate legal basis. The Uzbekistan Supreme Council on January 14, 1992 adopted a resolution transferring into the republican jurisdiction military formations of the Turkestan Military District stationed on its territory, military training establishments and institutions of the armed forces of the former USSR except the military units within the strategic forces. In accordance with a February 20 this year, decree by the President of Uzbekistan, control over the republican armed forces has been entrusted to the Uzbekistan Ministry of Defense. Uzbekistan armed forces will be small-numbered but mobile, their main task is to protect the state sovereignty of the republic, repel external aggression as part of the joint armed forces, Akhmedov said. According to the general, the chief command of the CIS joint armed forces will coordinate strategic and operational planning for the military formations transferred to the republican jurisdiction. At present, according to Akhmedov, the structure of the republican armed forces is being elaborated, as well as a package of documents regulating their activities, including laws on defense, universal military obligation, social and legal protection of servicemen, alternative service, regulations on military service of officers. Akhmedov said that the Uzbekistan National Guard, established under a resolution of the republican Cabinet of Ministers on the basis of units of armed forces and interior ministry troops transferred under the command of the Uzbekistan Ministry of Defense, will be an integral part of the Uzbekistan Armed Forces and its task will be to protect the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Uzbekistan, constitutional rights and liberties of its citizens. The national guard will also fulfil specific duties: Participation in solemn rituals of the honor guard company, protection of especially important state objects.

President Karimov Favors Ostankino TV

LD2203053192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] In an interview with a correspondent from the Television News Service in Tashkent, Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan, made a statement concerning the information space. He said: We are in need of an information space. People need information just like they need air, like their daily bread. Therefore our approach, the approach of the majority of states, is to preserve this. This space will be preserved by television. Ostankino will exist. This was the reply of Islam Karimov to the question put by our correspondent on a single information space. And as you know, as you heard, this is still being talked about, a decision was not made on it, we do not have a decision on it.

National TV To Broadcast Turkish Television

LD1903175892 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 19 Mar 92

[By UZA correspondent Irina Grebnyuk]

[Text] Tashkent March 19 TASS—Uzbek National TV plans to start broadcasting Turkish television. The programme of the Turkish Television Channel, which has been presented to Uzbek viewers for a few days, became a general rehearsal of regular broadcasts.

The move is envisaged by the programme on cooperation in communications, radio and television contacts, which was signed between Uzbekistan and Turkey. Both sides work hard to implement the project. The first series of TV broadcasts were carried out through a parabolical aerial of the Uzbek Centre for Hydrometeorology. In future it will be possible to conduct such transmissions via satellite.

Turkish TV programmes will be available not only in Uzbekistan, but in the whole of the Central Asian region.

Armenia

President Issues Decree on Vital Supplies

LD2803064192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has issued a decree on measures to protect vital supplies to the population and industrial enterprises under the conditions of an extraordinary economic situation. In particular, the decree instructs the republican government to work out, within three days, a plan of action and also to set up a republican operational control headquarters which will be headed by Gagik Arutunyan, vice president and prime minister.

Supreme Soviet Approves Emblem, Currency

LD2703215992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Armenian parliament has approved the republic's emblem. The previous state symbol of independent Armenia has been taken as a basis. It also approved a resolution on the national unit of money. In future, the ruble and the kopeck will be replaced in Armenia by the dram and the louma.

Losses Reported Due to Azerbaijani Blockade

LD2803121892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] As a result of the Azerbaijani blockade of transport and other links, Armenia has sustained losses of 4.4 billion rubles in 1990, 4.1 billion rubles in 1991, and 6 billion rubles in January to February of this year. This data was released by the Armenian State Committee for Statistics in terms of actual prices.

Turkey Inflicts 'Tangible Blow'

LD3003100792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1445 GMT 29 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The fuel and power crisis in Armenia has severely worsened this week. People are not traveling in elevators in Yerevan because of the fear of getting stuck when electric power is next switched off. Many enterprises are standing idle and losses from this have exceeded 650 million rubles. Altogether, according to officials, Armenia has already lost more than 4 billion rubles since the beginning of the blockade of the main lines by neighboring Azerbaijan. And according to a IZVESTIYA report, Turkey is also inflicting a tangible blow on the republic's economy. Under the pretext of cutting off arms supplies to Armenia, Turkey has closed off the transportation of humanitarian aid over its territory.

'Massive' Offensive Against Stepanakert Noted

NC3003150892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani army launched a massive attack on the outskirts of Stepanakert, the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], on 29 March. [Words indistinct] fifteen armored cars [words indistinct] and almost 2,000 soldiers were involved in the final stage of the offensive. As of 0600 on 29 March, Stepanakert was subjected to the most intense artillery and missile attack since the start of the conflict. The shelling came from firing positions in Shusha, Dzhanhasan, and [names indistinct].

The NKR Supreme Soviet Press Service reports that 50 artillery shells and 185 Grad rockets were fired on Stepanakert on 29 March. The shelling caused new destruction in the city [words indistinct]. At least 15 Grad rockets were fired at Stepanakert's airport. The fire came from the Azerbaijani village of Dzhanhasan and caused a lot of destruction. The Armenian self-defense forces took countermeasures to silence the firing positions at Shusha and Dzhanhasan.

The battle for the control of Stepanakert's outskirts continued until the early morning of 30 March. Thanks to the timely measures taken, the Armenian freedom fighters managed to halt the Azerbaijani Army offensive and drive the invaders back.

During evening and night attacks along the various sections of the border, the Azerbaijani military units often mistakenly opened artillery and machinegun fire on each other.

NKR's self-defense headquarters believes this attempt to occupy Stepanakert is the most organized and intense operation the Azerbaijani Army has undertaken this year. There can obviously be no talk about adhering to the cease-fire now. The responsibility for the human casualties and the unfolding of the military operations will fully fall on the Azerbaijani leadership.

The Armenian village of (Raffi) in Askeranskiy Rayon was shelled from Shusha on 29 March. Four Stepanakert residents, who had taken refugee in that village, were injured. The Armenian village of Karin-Tak in the same rayon was hit with tank fire from Shusha.

Three MI-24 Azerbaijani helicopters shelled Armenian villages in Mardakertskiy rayon with large-caliber machine guns and Nurs rockets on 28 and 29 March. Countermeasures were taken and one helicopter was hit over Kadzhavan Armenian village. It made a forced landing inside Azerbaijan.

Passenger Plane Shot At; Cease-Fire Broken

OW2703164192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijanis shot at an Armenian passenger plane "Yakovlev-40" above the Kelbadzhar district of Azerbaijan about midday with anti-aircraft guns. The plane was evacuating wounded, women and children from Stepanakert.

The projectile hit the plane's fuselage close to an engine. About 10 passengers are reported to have been injured; some of them were taken to hospital. Armenians say the plane managed to get to Yerevan only due to the pilot's skill.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Parliament denied responsibility for the escalation of fighting in the republic. It also said it had to take measures to protect civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The parliamentary news center of Nagorno-Karabakh was quoted as saying that "the attack was fresh evidence that Azerbaijan had violated the Iran-mediated cease-fire."

Commentary Explains 'Two Versions' of News

NC2803072292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Station commentary: "Two Versions of the Same Decision"]

[Text] During our last newscast yesterday, we informed our listeners about the decisions made by the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet's extraordinary session, citing Baku radio's morning news program. They broadcast this program in Azeri for the Azerbaijani population. That is why we were not surprised to find out that Baku radio broadcast a different version for the Russian mass media in reporting the Supreme Soviet's decision on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the republic's political-social situation. The Azeri-language version of the parliament decision included only hostile threats against the Armenian republic, while in the Russian-language version of the report these threats were followed by an expression of hope that a way would be found to peacefully resolve the conflict.

The Azerbaijani [word indistinct] news agency has informed the Russian news agencies that the Supreme Soviet decision also notes that Azerbaijan favors a political solution to the conflict and particularly proposes the holding of an international conference under UN aegis. This a proposal which all Azerbaijani mass media either reject, propose, or refute in the name of the authorities.

It is not difficult to understand why two versions of the same decision are carried, one in Azeri and one in Russian. The Azeri version intends to further instigate the anti-Armenian feelings among the Azerbaijanis by parading the grim specter of possible genocide and massacres of Azerbaijanis by the Armenians. With this, the authorities want to divert the people's attention from the republic's explosive social problems.

The aim of the second version is also obvious. It is nothing but a political (?ploy) peculiar to the old and new Azerbaijani leadership. [Words indistinct] it is a propaganda ploy to deceive the world. It aims to conceal Azerbaijan's usurpationist war being waged against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and to create the illusion of a good-natured, peace-loving and humanistic Azerbaijan.

Syrian Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

President Receives Minister

JN3003064392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Yerevan—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan yesterday received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian attended.

Al-Shar' conveyed greetings from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who, in turn, asked Mr. al-Shar' to convey his best wishes and warmest greetings to President Hafiz al- Asad.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around the situation in Armenia, the region, and the Nagorno Karabakh crisis. The two sides stressed the need to find a peaceful solution to that crisis, put an end to bloodshed, and achieve stability and security in the region.

Discussions also revolved around the situation in the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the historic Armenian-Syrian ties and means to strengthen them in the future for the benefit of the two friendly peoples.

The SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY has learned that the two sides will today sign a cooperation agreement between the Syrian and Armenian Foreign Ministries. They will also sign other agreements on economic, cultural, and media cooperation.

Mr. al-Shar' and his delegation arrived in Yerevan yesterday from Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

Cooperation Discussed

JN3003101592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Yerevan—Gagik Arutyunyan, Armenian vice president and prime minister, this morning received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in the presence of Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian. Talks dealt with bilateral relations and means of developing these relations and broadening the horizons of future cooperation between the two friendly peoples and countries in all fields. The two sides stressed their joint desire to establish the bases of this multifaceted cooperation in the interest of both countries.

In another development, the Syrian and Armenian technical teams held a session of talks at the prime minister's office this morning. Aspects of joint cooperation in view of the available capabilities as well as the means of future cooperation in all areas were discussed during the meeting.

Azerbaijan

Gasanov Calls On Turkey To Initiate Peace

TA2903181792 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov has asked Turkey to initiate efforts for a regional peace conference to help solve the Karabakh problem.

Gasanov, in a statement to ANATOLIA AGENCY, expressed the belief that a regional conference involving Azerbaijan, Turkey, Armenia, Iran, and Russia would play an effective role in solving the problem. Noting that the effective Iranian role in the Karabakh problem was the result of Armenian policies, Gasanov added that Azerbaijan has no role in the Iranian involvement in the problem. He added that it would be beneficial for Turkey to prepare a concrete plan for the solution of the Karabakh problem. Pointing out that Azerbaijan wants to develop its economic relations with Turkey, Gasanov called on Turkish firms to invest in Azerbaijan.

Nakhichevan To Receive Credit From Turkey

LD2703205592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1758 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "External Economic Relations" section]

[Text] Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan—The Chairman of Supreme Majlis (parliament) of Nakhichevan Republic Gaydar Aliyev also told PF [POSTFACTUM] that according to the agreement on cooperation reached on March 24 between Turkey and Nakhichevan Republic, Turkey will allocate to Nakhichevan a credit for a sum of US 100 million, implement work on autonomous republic's joining to Turkish TV and telephone systems, will start creation of air- and railway communications, build a bridge over the Araks River. Gaydar Aliyev came back from Turkey on March 26. Having known that the Azerbaijani parliament has adopted the amendment to the Constitution and from now on the head of Nakhichevan parliament is the deputy chairman of Azerbaijani Supreme Council, Aliyev stressed that for him it is very important that his name is personally announced.

Nakhichevan's Aliyev Interviewed on Turkey

NC2803114292 Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish 26 Mar 92 p 13

[Report on an interview with Gaydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, by Irfan Ulku in Istanbul; date not given]

[Text] Suggesting that after Karabakh an Armenian attack on Nakhichevan is also likely, the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic President [title as received] Gaydar Aliyev said: "If it happened Turkey would intervene. A protocol which we have signed confirms this, in line with Kars and Moscow agreements of 70 years ago." Aliyev, a former USSR Politburo member and a deputy leader of the Soviet Union, stressed that Gorbachev is a Russian chauvinist who harbors enmity against the Turkish-Muslim world. He added: "Gorbachev is responsible for the current situation in Karabakh, in the past supporting the Armenians on this issue."

After his contacts in Ankara, Aliyev traveled to Istanbul. I accompanied him to the Sultanahmet Mosque and Topkapi Palace, where he discussed history with government Adviser on External Turks Ambassador Namik Kemal Zeybek on a Ramazan day. They concentrated on the Ottoman Empire and Aliyev said that this was his second visit to Istanbul since visiting as a tourist 30 years earlier. We asked him about Nakhichevan's situation and Armenian attacks on Karabakh. Aliyev, who has popular Azerbaijani support for his candidacy as president of Azerbaijan, replied: "Nakhichevan is surrounded by Armenia on three sides. Nakhichevan's is a critical strategic position. It is linked with Azerbaijan by a railroad which passes through Armenia before entering Azerbaijan. This means of communication is also vitally important for Armenia because the aid to Armenia from Russia must pass through Nakhichevan. Sometimes the Armenians refuse to let our citizens through to Azerbaijan and in October 1991 the Armenian bandits stopped a train, taking 120 of our compatriots hostage. I called Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and asked him to send the defense minister to the scene. He did and 130 Turks were saved from massacre. I think this example best explains Nakhichevan's situation. I have been its president for the past seven months, during which time I met the Armenian leaders. There is no Armenian threat now but this does not mean there won't be."

[TURKIYE] Do the Armenians covet Nakhichevan?

[Aliyev] Yes, for a long time. They have occupied the Karabakh mountains, leaving only Shusha city, which emigration has emptied.

[TURKIYE] Could you detail the protocol which you signed with Prime Minister Demirel in Ankara? And will Turkey defend you if the Armenians attack Nakhichevan?

[Aliyev] It must, it will defend us. According to Kars and Moscow agreements, Turkey is Nakhichevan's guarantor. With this new protocol we are once more drawing the world's attention to these agreements. There are reasons for concluding these. Originally the agreement was signed at the behest of the young Turkish republic. Nakhichevan is again being threatened by Armenia. In

view of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, the world must recognize Turkey's guarantor status as it did in the case of Cyprus.

[TURKIYE] You had major differences with the former Soviet leader Gorbachev and you, as the only Turkish voice in the Politburo, had to resign. How did these events unfold?

[Aliyev] It was a major struggle, which I will include in my memoirs. I contradicted Gorbachev often and did not approve his ideas and solutions. His theses on the interethnic policy within the USSR were wrong and dangerous. It was imperialism. I was the only Turk in the 10-member Politburo and I opposed these policies. Gorbachev was a known enemy of the Turkish-Islamic world. He is no internationalist, he represents the great Russian chauvinism. He could not stand a Turk being an equal Politburo member. Gorbachev played an important role in shaping the huge Karabakh problem. Influenced by the Armenians, he worked to give them the mountainous Karabakh. He knew about attack plans. I resigned from the Politburo at the end of January 1987. Some 15 days before, Gorbachev's Armenian adviser Abel Aganbekyan made a strong-worded statement in Paris, saying that Karabakh belongs to Armenia. Aganbekyan argued with Gorbachev, who then told me he shared Aganbekyan's views, so I had to leave the Politburo to make their work easy. That is what happened.

[TURKIYE] What are the latest developments in Azerbaijan? What course will the political developments take after Mutalibov's resignation?

[Aliyev] Mutalibov is guilty. His transfer from Azerbaijan Communist Party secretary to president was not legal. He declared himself president by taking advantage of his job as party secretary. I strongly objected because I know him and his men very well. They were raised with me. I brought Mutalibov to power but he could not prove his worth. It was Mutalibov who engineered the Red Army's Baku massacre. So he is under enormous guilt. His becoming Azerbaijani president was a very dangerous development. He took Azerbaijan further back. Taking advantage of this situation, the Armenians advanced step by step on mountainous Karabakh, taking it with their last offensive. Mutalibov betrayed the people.

The Nakhichevan president, who is seen as Azerbaijan's future president and who receives 300,000 letters a week, first smiled when we asked if he would stand at the first elections then replied: "My people's love could be taken as a reply to your question."

Aliyev Comments on Border Adjustment Issue

NC2803122192 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 25 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Ankara—The Chairman of the Supreme Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Gaydar Aliyev, told the ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY in Ankara that relations between Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan could not be put into the same mold as relations between Karabakh and Armenia.

Referring to Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin's statement on the subject of building corridors between Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan, and between Karabakh and Armenia, in which he said the exchange of land between Armenia and Azerbaijan was a solution worth considering seriously, Aliyev said that Nakhichevan was a separate part of Azerbaijan. "It is only because of injustices which took place about 70 years ago that Nakhichevan broke off from Azerbaijan.

However, Nagorno-Karabakh has never been a part of Armenia. That is why relations between Armenia and Karabakh are not similar to those between Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan," he said.

Aliyev and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel signed a protocol in Ankara on Tuesday for a $100 million Turkish loan to Nakhichevan, as well as cooperation in telecommunications, tourism, transport, industry, agriculture, education, and cultural exchanges.

The protocol also makes provision for the construction of a bridge over the river Araks, air and railway links between Nakhichevan and Turkey, and measures to incite investments in Nakhichevan.

Demirel told the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis chairman that the Turkey had a say in any change which might occur in Nakhichevan's status. [sentence as published] "That is why we have a special regard for the independent republic of Nakhichevan" he said.

Demirel added that he hoped the bridge would not only link Turkey and Nakhichevan geographically but also help to make up for the 70 year "exile."

Aliyev, who had reached a position of authority in the Politburo of the former Soviet Union's Communist Party and who resigned from office at the end of 1987, told ANATOLIA that if Moscow had wanted to, it could have solved the Karabakh dispute in 10 days. He said the Communist Party had the opportunity about four years ago, but that Moscow had not taken any strong action to solve the problem.

Aliyev also briefed reporters on talks he held with Armenian officials on March 10 and said that besides the Karabakh dispute, the talks had centered around border security between Nakhichevan and Armenia. The talks also focused on the security of the railway line which will pass through Nakhichevan and Armenia.

Military Official Denies Arms Transfer Charges

LD2703221292 Moscow TASS in English 1905 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Mirza Askerov]

[Text] Nakhichevan March 27 TASS—"Not a single unit of materiel from formations of the Nakhichevan division has been transferred to the Armed Forces, which are being created in Azerbaijan, or seized by local armed formations," Nakhichevan division commander Major-General R. Sloboshevich told AZERINFORM.

The general refuted rumors on capture by Azeri armed formations of a large amount of materiel and arms, belonging to the CIS troops stationed in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic in Azerbaijan.

Syrian Foreign Minister Begins Visit, Meetings

Meets Acting President

JN2803071192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Baku—Yakub Mamedov, acting president and speaker of the parliament in Azerbaijan, received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon. Guseunaga Sadykhov, Azerbaijan's foreign minister, was also in attendance.

Discussion at the meeting focused on the current situation in the Middle East and Asia, as well as the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and the need to find a peaceful solution to it. Talks also dealt with the historical relations between Azerbaijan and Syria and ways to bolster them in various fields.

At the meeting, the Azerbaijani president hailed Syria's policy and President al-Asad's important role in the Middle East region.

Gasan Gasanov, foreign minister of the Azerbaijan Republic, received Faruq al-Shar' this evening. Their talks dealt with bilateral relations and the means available to develop these relations in the future to serve both their peoples and countries.

The Syrian and Azerbaijani sides held a round of talks this evening to discuss future bilateral relations in the economic, cultural, and scientific fields.

SANA has learned that the two sides will sign four agreements tomorrow morning. These agreements pertain to the establishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and the exchange of scientific expertise.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation arrived in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, at noon today in the course of a tour that includes a number of Islamic central Asian states, Armenia, and the Ukraine.

Al-Shar' left Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, this morning. He was seen off by Tolevtay Suleymenov, the foreign minister of Kazakhstan, and other ranking Foreign Ministry and Kazakh officials.

An economic agreement between Syria and Kazakhstan was signed in Alma-Ata this morning. The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Faruk al-Shar and (Abichev Sizlik), the minister responsible for foreign economic relations.

Diplomatic Protocol Signed

LD3003111592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0202 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The visit to Baku by Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' ended after a protocol on creating diplomatic relations between Syria and the Republic of Azerbaijan was signed on 28 March.

Speaking at a news conference immediately after the document was adopted, the head of Syria's Foreign Ministry and Hasan Hasanov, prime minister of Azerbaijan, stated that a mutually beneficial protocol in the economic and cultural spheres was also signed. Prime Minister Hasan Hasanov, familiarizing the guests with the political and social situation in the republic, pointed out that Azerbaijan is making efforts to solve the Karabakh conflict through peaceful means, and welcomes every effort by foreign countries to undertake mediation efforts to stop the bloodshed. Faruq al-Shar' said that Syria is interested in participating in the talks process, either by participation of the relevant sides or third countries, in order to stop the fighting.

News Conference Held

JN2803173892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Moscow—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying him arrived in the Tajik capital city of Dushanbe this afternoon on a visit to the Republic of Tajikistan from Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan.

The foreign minister was welcomed upon arrival at the airport by Tajik Foreign Affairs Minister Lakim Kayumov, senior Foreign Affairs Ministry officials, and the under secretaries of the Justice, Economy, and Education Ministries.

An agreement establishing diplomatic ties between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Azerbaijan was signed in Baku this morning. [passage omitted]

After the signing ceremony, Faruq al-Shar' and Azeribaijan Prime Minister Gasanov held a joint news conference, during which they answered questions posed by reporters. Faruq al-Shar' was satisfied with the results reached by the Syrian and Azerbaijani sides and also with the agreements signed—agreements which constitute a firm foundation for developing and expanding the horizons of cooperation between the two friendly countries in various spheres. These agreements, he added, provide a new starting point for establishing close cooperation between the Syrian and Azerbaijani people.

In reply to a question on the repercussions of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute, al-Shar' said: We support

the sincere and serious efforts being made to find a political solution to the problem. We hope that these efforts will be crowned with success. This success is possible thanks to the goodneighborly ties and coexistence experienced by the two countries and people. These two elements will promote the interests of the two countries and people: that is, Azerbaijan and Armenia. He added that Syria supports a peaceful solution to the dispute and believes that escalating the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan does not serve the security and stability of the region. Neither does it serve the interests of the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples, with whom we are linked through old historical and cultural ties, he maintained. Al-Shar' went on to say that Syria is against aggression, against occupation, and against the use of force in resolving disputes.

Answering a question on what would contribute toward resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute, Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov said: A solution is attainable through negotiations, which can take various forms. The negotiations could be conducted between Azerbaijan and Armenia, or between the two republics with the participation of other states. Answering another question, Gasanov rejected the possible participation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region in such negotiations.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1624 GMT on 28 March in a similar report adds the following: "Speaking at a press conference in Baku Saturday [28 March], Faruq al-Shar' described the reports by a number of news agencies on arms shipments from Syria to Armenia as groundless. He expressed Damsacus's readiness to contribute to restoring peace in the region. In response to a question by IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent, Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov noted that regional disputes can be resolved peacefully within the framework of talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan, possibly, with mediation by Iran, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, and other states. Talks between Baku and representatives of the Armenian and Azeri communities of Nagorno-Karabakh may also play a role in settling domestic issues. However, Gasanov ruled out the possibility that the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh would be considered an independent party at such multilateral talks."]

Defense Minister Demands Emergency Powers

MK2703132792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Mar 92 p 1

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "Azerbaijan: It Has Not Proved Possible To Form a Coalition Government. Defense Minister Has Demanded Emergency Powers To Implement Compulsory Mobilization and Set Up Military-Field Courts"]

[Text] Nationwide presidential elections in Azerbaijan will be held 7 November 1992. A decision on this was made at the extraordinary session of the republic's Supreme Soviet late in the evening of 25 March. The conservative majority in the parliament has thus rejected the demand of the republic's leading political force—the People's Front—to abolish the post of president, a demand set out in a resolution of the majlis of the People's Front of Azerbaijan [PFA]. As was to be expected, fierce arguments flared up around this issue on the session agenda.

Deputies from the "Independent Azerbaijan" bloc demanded that parliament adopt a decision to abolish the post of president. Deputies from the former communist bloc, on the contrary, put forward the argument that to abolish the post of president could weaken executive power in the republic. Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev submitted a compromise proposal expressing disagreement with the PFA's demand but at the same time suggesting that a president be directly elected at the session. Supreme Soviet Chairman Yagub Mamedov categorically opposed this proposal. "The presidential election should be nationwide," Mamedov stated.

The parliament postponed indefinitely its examination of another People's Front demand: On transferring most of the current Supreme Soviet's powers to a National Council composed of 50 deputies on a parity basis.

The extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet concluded its work the same day.

So the results of the session demonstrated that Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov will certainly not be able to form a coalition government with People's Front participation in the near future. The PFA had linked its possible participation in the Cabinet of Ministers with the realization of its demand that the post of president be eliminated. Moreover, the PFA has demanded that the right to form a government should lie with the National Council and not the Supreme Soviet.

Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev demanded that he be granted emergency powers to implement the following measures: mobilization of all the republic's resources for defense needs; the introduction of a state of emergency and a curfew in the capital and other cities and regions; the establishment of military-field courts and military tribunals; and the declaration of compulsory mobilization for dispatch to the Karabakh crisis region.

Observers here are wondering whether it is possible to hold a presidential election campaign on a democratic basis in the situation that will result if the demands of the republic's defense department are met.

At the same time the PFA's ruling body [pravleniye] has warned that it will not support the granting of emergency powers to the defense minister if the front does not take part in the government and remains in opposition. Isa Gambarov, one of the PFA's leaders, stated to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that "the republic's leadership could exploit the implementation of emergency measures in the republic to bolster its power."

Defense Minister Gaziyev's refusal to support the PFA's demand to eliminate presidential rule in the republic gives grounds for supposing that a possible complication in relations between the defense department and the PFA ruling body may arise.

The defense minister cannot afford to disregard the opinion of the front's leadership, if only because, according to certain information, around 80 percent of the soldiers and officers in the self-defense forces and national army are PFA members or are strongly influenced by this movement.

The only question on which the parliamentary majority and the opposition managed to reach agreement at the extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet was the issue of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In a resolution adopted unanimously 25 March, the Armenian leadership is accused of "bearing direct responsibility" for the genocide of the Azerbaijani inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh. A investigative group of deputies has been formed to bring to light the circumstances of the Khodzhali tragedy. The document also notes that the CIS member states, and Russia in particular, are not making the necessary efforts to resolve the Karabakh problem and defend Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

The parliament instructed the republic's leadership to enter into negotiations with the governments of Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Russia in order to work out a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

There are also plans in the near future to formulate a military doctrine for the republic. The parliament appealed to the United Nations to initiate a peace conference on Nagorno-Karabakh under the auspices of this organization.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's editorial office has learned that, on an instruction from Rafael Guseynov, Azerbaijan's deputy plenipotentiary representative in Moscow, the circulation of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on Azerbaijani territory has been suspended.

Statement Issued on Russian Press Service

NC2903083192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet press center has made the following statement:

Regarding the disclosure made by the Russian presidential press service in connection with the views expressed by Yakub Mamedov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, in an interview by Moscow's IMA-PRESS and Italy's RAI which was published in IZVESTIYA on 26 March, we wish to note that all of Mamedov's views were aimed at informing the world of the Azerbaijani people's grave situation.

Another 47,000 Azerbaijani refugees from the mountainous region in Karabakh, and 57,000 refugees from the rayons which border Armenia, have been added to the 200,000 refugees expelled from Armenia during the past few years. The Azerbaijani people have become refugees on their own land.

The tragedy in Khodzhaly, in which nearly 2,000 peaceful people including women, children, and elderly people were riddled with bullets, scorched by fire, tortured, and killed cannot be described as anything but an act of genocide committed by Armenian nationalists. The entire world is well aware of this fact.

The indisputable evidence in the possession of the competent organs of the Republic of Azerbaijan confirm that the CIS Armed Forces, which were based in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan until recently, participated in these incidents.

The disclosure made by the Russian presidential press service, however, has created the impression that objective and accurate information has not been conveyed to President Boris Yeltsin recently in connection with the incidents in the military operations zone and the active participation of the ill-reputed 366th Regiment. Furthermore, the official Azerbaijani delegation to the summit of CIS heads of state in Kiev on 20 March was, regrettably, deprived of an opportunity to inform the summit on the real situation in Karabakh. In view of this, the Republic of Azerbaijan makes it known that it is prepared to receive a group of independent experts and facilitate their efforts to establish the facts.

The officials in Azerbaijan continue to assess the mediation effort made by the Russian Federation to find a peaceful settlement to the Karabakh problem, and hope that the Russian Federation will clearly demonstrate that it is doing everything possible to end this dispute.

Customs Officers Refuse To Issue Border Passes

LD2703221492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1455 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Baku—Customs officers at the Astara simplified check-point of the Lenkoran border detachment refuse to issue border passage documents for citizens under the pretext that border guards do not ensure their security.

Several hundred people amassed near the passage point on both sides of the border on March 26 and 27, creating the threat of a mass violation of the border. The border detachment reserve pushed Azeris outside the boundaries of the simplified check-point. The leaders of the republic were informed about the situation.

A unit commander told PF [POSTFACTUM] it was not ruled out that the customs officers' actions were related to the policy of driving out border troops, which is pursued in Azerbaijan.

Armenian Community Role in Talks Opposed

LD2803230192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1932 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Baku—Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry asserts that participation of representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh in the trilateral talks is unlawful. The declaration of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry published on March 28 in local mass media says, among other things, that participation of representatives of the Armenian community as an independent side in the talks between representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, presumably agreed upon in Helsinki, would mean violation of the state integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani republic, the declaration says, by agreeing to the international conference being held on regulation of relations between the Azerbaijani republic and the Republic of Armenia, thinks it, however, unacceptable for the independent delegation of Nagorno-Karabakh to take part in this conference, as this would break the basis of the world order.

Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet on Situation

LD2803173192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast Supreme Soviet has stated that it refuses to take responsibility for any possible further escalation of combat actions and will be forced to adopt necessary retaliatory measures to protect the civilian population.

This statement was made today in connection with the cease-fire violations by the Azerbaijan side and the shelling of peaceful Armenian villages and a civilian aircraft.

'Armenian Militants' Take Six Hostages

LD2703133892 Moscow TASS in English 1258 GMT 27 Mar 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev]

[Text] Baku March 27 TASS—Six Azeris from the Kekhna Kyshlak settlement on the Armenian-Azeri border were taken hostage on Friday [30 March] by Armenian militants who intruded into the Akstafinsk region of Azerbaijan from Armenia, according to the Azerbaijani Interior Ministry.

Usually hostages are taken by Armenians when they want to exchange them for money, fuel or lubricants, according to the ministry.

Press Center Reports Armenian Attacks

NC2903184992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense Press Center reports that the Armenian armed forces, while preparing for an artillery attack, subjected the town of (Chukovaz) to intensive fire from various types of arms from the direction of Dzhemilli, beginning 1300 on 29 March. They later launched an intensive attack supported by heavy tracked vehicles. Thanks to the help they received from Shusha, the defenders of the town have been able to ward off the enemy. The clashes were still ongoing when this information was received. The Armenian armed forces fired on Shusha with all types of arms at about the same time. Those clashes are ongoing as well. The defenders of Shusha are effectively resisting the enemy. The city has also been subjected to crystal-type rocket attacks. The enemy is expected to launch a intense attack on the city.

It has been observed that armed Armenian groups and tracked vehicles are gathering near Armenia's Gorisskiy Rayon adjacent to the town of Barkhudarly, in Azerbaijani territory.

Armenians began to fire on Mindzhukhly in Tauzskiy Rayon from Armenia's Shamshadinskiy Rayon with armored infantry vehicles, personnel carriers, and [name indistinct] automatic firearms beginning on 1500 on 29 March. Clashes are ongoing. Reinforcements have been sent to help the town's defenders.

It has been reported that armed Armenians are gathering around Sukh in the former Gadrutskiy Rayon. Intermittent shots can be heard from time to time. In addition, the towns of Shefek and Zeyve in Gorenboyskiy Rayon have been fired on with [word indistinct], tracked vehicles and heavy machine guns from the direction of the Armenian-inhabited town of Karachinar. The armored enemy groups relentlessly maintain their pressure. Nevertheless, the fighters of the Azerbaijani armed forces are warding off the enemy attacks.

The Armenians fired on Shilly in Agdamskiy Rayon from the direction of Nakhichevanik with infantry vehicles and armored personnel carriers from 0100 to 0600 on 29 March. One person was killed in Shilly. Meanwhile, the Akhmedabad and [name indistinct] towns in Agdamskiy Rayon were also fired on at about the same time. No one was killed in the attacks.

The towns of Karadagly, [name indistinct], and Guneshly in Fizulinskiy Rayon were fired on from the direction of the former town of Gadrut from 1800 to 2000 on 28 March. No one was killed.

It has been observed that tracked vehicles are gathering in an area in Armenia's Kafanskiy Rayon adjacent to the territory of Agkend in Zangelanskiy Rayon.

Our editorial office has been informed by Militia Lieutenant G. Imanov, employee of the Kel'badzharskiy

Rayon Internal Affairs Department, that the towns of Agdaban and [name indistinct] were fired on from the direction of Chaparly in Agdara Rayon last night. The enemy was forced to retreat. The clashes continued for two hours. The situation in Lachin, Kubatly, and Kazakh was relatively peaceful.

Georgia

Four Towns Seized by Gamsakhurdia Supporters

OW2903134692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armed supporters of the deposed president Zviad Gamsakhurdia seized on Saturday [28 March] afternoon the West Georgian cities of Khobi, Abasha, Senaki and Tsalendzhikh and dissolved the local government bodies. The police offered no resistance.

Tbilisi responded by announcing the mobilization of the national guard and the paramilitary group MKHEDRIONI.

The State Council addressed the Georgian people on Saturday evening, labeling the behavior of pro-Gamsakhurdia activists as a "betrayal of Georgia's interests." At the same time, the Council reaffirmed its desire to settle the conflict by strictly political means.

Officers, Reservists, Militants Mobilized

LD2903173192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1447 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Tbilisi—In connection with the deteriorating situation in west Georgia, on March 29, the mobilization of officers and soldiers of the Georgian Defense Ministry, reservists of the National Guard's special unit and Mkhedreoni militants was declared.

According to Khobi District Board Chairman Temur Gergaya, approximately 300 militants, as well as a tank, an armored personnel vehicle and other machinery arrived in the town of Khobi from Zugdidi on the morning of March 28. Only students of the Tbilisi Militia School are left in Poti, while National Guard servicemen were withdrawn from the city following preliminary agreements reached by representatives of the State Council and Zugdidi based Committee of Civil Resistance. The situation deteriorated due to repeated statements by the Vice-President of the Union of the Caucasus Mountain People, Gennadiy Alamiya, revealed by Abkhaziya mass media that military formations from north Caucasus will be introduced in Abkhaziya in case Georgia continues escalating tension in the region. On March 28, the State Council of Georgia announced its readiness to reach, as has already been declared earlier, a compromise in order to stabilize the situation in the western areas of the republic. The State Council of Georgia demanded the armed forces of Georgia and regional law-enforcement bodies restore law and order in the region and protect lives and property of citizens.

A state of emergency was declared with respect to republican railroads.

'Ultimatum' Issued to Gamsakhurdia Backers

LD3003055392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] The Georgian State Council has issued an ultimatum to armed groups supporting ex-President Gamsakhurdia. They have until midnight on 30 March to meet the following conditions: railway lines and highways must be open for traffic; commands from the National Guard must be obeyed; the groups must return to their permanent bases; and all persons illegally possessing firearms must surrender them. The ultimatum has been signed on behalf of the State Council by Dzhaba Ioseliani and Tengiz Kitovani.

Kitovani said on republican television that the National Guard will assume control of all the republic's territory. The State Council guardsmen, however, will not enter Abkhazia or Adzharia.

National Guard, Gamsakhurdia Forces Face Off

AU3003083492 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] This morning, we received this information from Samtredia: Gela (?Lashagidze), the town's commander, has informed us that armed forces belonging to the National Guard and those supporting the ex-president have gathered on both sides of the River Tskenitsqali on the border between Samtredia and Abasha.

Government representatives are trying to resolve the problems through negotiations. Today, supporters of the ex-president met with Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] David Chachua, representative of the Georgian State Council in western Georgia.

Yesterday night, there were no confrontations between the rival forces.

The railway line and highway to Samegrelo, Guria, and Adzharia remain closed.

State Council Issues Demands on Restoring Order

AU3003120892 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Statement issued by the Republic of Georgia State Council in Tbilisi on 29 March]

[Text] It is not by chance that the new wave of destabilization in Zugdidi and its neighboring rayons has coincided with the improvement and normalization of the situation in Georgia. The fact that the Republic of Georgia occupies a worthy place in the international

arena and is starting to establish diplomatic relations with the world's leading countries, something which (?holds) considerable prospects for emerging from the economic crisis, is annoying the representatives of those (?unlucky) authorities who have brought Georgia to collapse in all areas of state and public life.

Having settled outside Georgia, in the city of Groznyy, they are creating disorganization and a (?seat) of armed confrontation by using immoral methods. They are alarming the population with [word indistinct] weapons. Railway lines and highways have been blocked and put out of operation, as a result of which Georgia has suffered losses amounting to 6 billion rubles [R]. Every day, various products valued at R30-40 million are not entering the republic. The opportunity is not being given to peasants to conduct spring ploughing and sowing, workers and employees to go to their places of work, and pupils to resume normal studies. Robbery, theft, and banditry have become everyday occurrences.

The Republic of Georgia State Council has done everything in order to restore order in Zugdidi and its neighboring rayons by peaceful and political methods. Unfortunately, however, the agreements reached have been broken many times by the instigators and leaders of disobedience, which is wholly senseless and foolhardy. Order must be immediately restored once and for all. With this aim, the Republic of Georgia State Council demands that:

1. The railway line and all highways must be opened at once.

2. Those armed formations that, on the basis of an agreement reached earlier, are ready to unite with the National Guard, are immediately and unconditionally to occupy those stationing locations that have been specified for them by the Guard's command authorities.

3. All illegal armed formations are to surrender their weapons and their members are to return to their permanent places of residence.

The Internal Ministry forces, with the participation, if necessary, of units of the National Guard and the "Mkhedrioni" ["Horsemen"—paramilitary formation sanctioned by the official authorities] are to ensure that an inventory be made of the weapons surrendered and that they be stored; that the peaceful population, railway lines and highways, and important installations are protected and [word indistinct] guaranteed; the curfew and the passport regime are steadfastly protected in accordance with the rules of the state of emergency; and armed bands and terrorists are located, disarmed, and brought to trial.

The State Council is certain that the Abkhaz leaders will not allow armed adventurers and diversionary detachments to be given refuge on the territory of the autonomous republic.

The government forces are entrusted with severely and steadfastly ensuring discipline and subordination, carrying out commanders' orders precisely, and showing sympathy toward the peaceful population.

The population is called upon to maintain peace, observe the rules of the state of emergency, and assist the government forces in the establishment of law and order. Only in this way is there a possibility of restoring normal life in the region.

Tbilisi. 29 March 1992.

Armed Formations Begin Pullback After Talks

LD3003161892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1559 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Zugdidi, 30 March (ITAR-TASS)—Talks between representatives of the republican State Council and the local disobedience committee were successfully concluded in Zugdidi today. The sides' armed formations are leaving the places of their deployment on the basis of an accord. Public order is to be maintained by cadets from the militia school, internal troop units, and staff from local militia departments.

Shevardnadze Favors Settlement With Ossetia

OW2703200892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of Georgia's State Council Eduard Shevardnadze has said he is going to take every step to resolve the dispute between the Georgians and Ossetians. He was speaking in Gori at a meeting with local officials, the public and refugees from South Ossetia. There are a total of eight thousand refugees in Gori.

The dispute between Georgians and Ossetians erupted after South Ossetia held a referendum in favour of unification with Russia at the end of last year. The then Georgian Administration of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia declared the results of the referendum void.

Australia, Austria Recognize Country

AU3003115892 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Australia has recognized Georgia as an independent state. Such a message has also come from Austria. Up to the present day, approximately 50 countries have recognized Georgia's statehood.

Estonia

Violation of Border Crossing Agreement Noted

LD2703174492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Edgar Aaro, head of the operational service of the Republic of Estonia border guard department, has reported to the Baltic News Service that last night a column of Russian military vehicles left the military warehouses located in the outskirts of Viljandi. A paratroop batallion of Russian forces is stationed in Viljandi. Using dark and out-of-the-way roads the column moved toward the state border and crossed it near [name indistinct] at 0810 this morning. According to information available, about 50 to 60 military vehicles were in this column, Edgar Aaro noted.

Aare (?Evisalu), head of the border guard department's control center, told the Baltic News Service that at 0315 the border guard department got in touch with the duty officer at the paratroop unit in Viljandi who assured them that no vehicle had left the territory of the military unit. According to Mr. (?Evisalu) a border patrol saw the column of military vehicles entering Russia, Pechery rayon, in the morning, using unguarded secondary roads.

Therefore, the Russian Army has violated the Estonian Supreme Council resolution on the border crossing regime. Likewise, the leadership of the military unit failed to inform the Estonian Government of the column's movements. [passage omitted]

Further, yesterday morning 56 Russian soldiers arrived in Tallinn by train. The Russian soldiers had refused to obey Estonian border guards' orders at Johvi to get off the train. According to Mr. Aaro, the Russian soldiers were caught at Tallinn train station. All of them were sent back to St. Petersburg on the 1620 train.

110 Russian Sailors Detained

OW2803164492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1528 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian border control department reported another attempt to bring CIS troops into Estonia without permission of the republican government.

The department says on March 27 an aircraft carrying 110 sailors landed at the Tartu military base. Later they arrived by train in Tallinn where they were detained by Estonian border guards. After long talks between the military and Estonian officials the sailors were allowed to stay for two days at the Paldiski military base near Tallinn. Then they will be sent back to Russia.

This is already the second attempt to illegally bring Russian military servicemen in Estonia. Earlier, Estonian border guards detained and sent back to Russia 56 servicemen.

Government Recognizes Georgia's Independence

OW2703170092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1407 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a telephone conversation with Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze head of the Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel said that Estonia had recognized Georgia. He expressed support for the policy of national reconciliation pursued by the new leadership of Georgia.

Ruutel asked Shevardnadze to demobilize Georgian citizens from the CIS Armed Forces units stationed in the Baltics.

Most Amendments to Draft Constitution Rejected

OW2803174792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1528 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 27 the Estonian Constitutional Assembly discussed a draft Constitution of the republic.

The Assembly considered amendments proposed by deputies of the parliament and a special commission of experts. However, the Assembly rejected most of them. Apart from several adjustments, only one amendment was introduced in the draft: an article stating that the president has the right to amend the Constitution.

Government Given Increased Budget Control

LD2903204192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The Estonian Supreme Council today, with 52 votes in favor, endorsed a resolution giving the government the right, until 1 July, to use the state budget to finance establishments and events according to the actual revenue received by the corresponding establishment. The resolution gives the Government of the Republic of Estonia the right to calculate the relationship between the state and local budgets, and proceeding from this, to provide financial subsidies from the state budget to budgets of districts and republican towns, while making sure that these budgets participate in the payments which cover the state's expenses.

Finance Minister Rein Miller told the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that the solution of this issue represents a vote of confidence in the government, because the Supreme Council will no longer be able to control payments out of the budget.

Latvia

Gorbunovs Meets Swedish Premier's Adviser

OW2803165092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1528 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Latvian parliament Anatolijs Gorbunovs met in Riga Friday [27 March] with adviser of Swedish Prime Minister, former Swedish Consul in Latvia Lars Freden who arrived in Latvia on a working visit.

Freden is supposedly in Latvia for the preparation of a visit by Swedish Prime Minister Karl Bilt to the republic.

Some Military Organizations 'Beyond' Control

LD2803231192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1932 GMT 28 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Riga—Currently in Latvia operate no less than four militarized organizations beyond the control of both government and parliament. Peteris Simsons, chairman of Latvian Republic Supreme Council commission for defense and interior affairs, gave an interview to the newspaper SM-SEGODNIA and said: Any organization has the right to exist if its objective is not violated or armed overthrowing of existing authorities. According to Simsons in Latvia there are such non-state militarized formations as Aisargs, Latvian National Guard, Imantas Gars, and Cossack Assembly.

CSCE's Assistance Sought in Withdrawal Issue

OW2803180792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1528 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Upon return form Helsinki where he attended a meeting of the CSCE member states' foreign ministers, Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans said that the Baltic representatives supported the proposal to introduce the post of the CSCE supreme commissar who would monitor observance of ethnic minorities' rights in various countries.

Jurkans said that Latvia wants the CSCE commissar to take control over the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Baltics. In his opinion, agreements with Russia on the withdrawal should be reached by July with the help of the CSCE.

Further on Russian Payment Protocol

OW2603223892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1911 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday, March 25, Latvia's Minister of Foreign Trade Edgars Zausajevs signed a protocol under which Latvia and Russia would, in 1992, square payments for goods and raw materials on the clearing principle.

The Secretary of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Trade Teva Jekabsone has informed a reporter for BALTFAX that the protocol will become effective only after Russia's Minister of Trade and Material Resources Stanislav Anisimov signs it, too. Once the protocol enters force, payments will be carried out in roubles, at the exhange rate of 35 Roubles for 1 US dollar.

Russia's Deputy Minister of Trade and Material Resources Nikolay Konovalov and Latvia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Ilmars Cirksis signed a rider to that document. From now on Russia will supply Latvia with gas at US$180 a ton [as received], diesel fuel—at US$155 a ton and other fuels to a total of US$326,620,000.

Russia will receive meat and meat products at US$1300 a ton, milk and other dairy products at US$135 a ton and other items of farm produce Latvia will also supply this country with US$95,960,000 worth of ribbed woolen fabric, US$15,260,000 worth of integrated microcircuits, US$39,600,000 worth of hydrocilinders and US$44,850,000 worth of drive chains. All in all, this year Latvia will be expected to supply Russia with goods to a total sum of US$326,620, 000.

Information Requested on Atomic Accident

OW2603142392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1330 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Council of Ministers has sent a government telegram to Russian Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak asking them to provide detailed information about the accident at the Leningrad atomic power station.

The head of the Latvian center for control over environmental pollution Irina Lulko told BF that 40 radiation control posts of the republic had detected normal radiation levels. Testing is carried out 8 times a day.

Riga Assembly To Be Supreme Government Body

OW2603150992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1330 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to a Latvian law on self-government bodies of Riga adopted by the Latvian Supreme Council in the first reading, in the near future the Riga Assembly will become the supreme self-government body of Riga. It will be elected by regional and city councils of people's deputies.

The Riga Assembly will consist of 60 members, the city council will have 30 representatives there and regional councils—5 each. The law envisages preservation of the existing city and regional councils entitled to elect local self-government bodies and auditing commissions.

Rubles Printed; New Currency Due in Sep

LD2703062192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2100 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Rubles for the Republic have been printed in Latvia. This interim currency will be valid until the introduction of Latvia's national currency, the lat. Lat notes are to be printed by September. It is planned that at the moment of issue the lat will be equal to $1.30 or 2 German marks; in other words, 130 rubles.

Lithuania

Supreme Court Begins KGB Collaboration Cases

OW2603150692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1330 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian Supreme Court has started hearing the case of Virgilijus Cepaitis accused of collaborating with the KGB.

Apart from Cepaitis, cases of two more deputies of the Lithuanian parliament Kazimiera Prunskiene and Jokuvas Minkevicius have been filed to the court on the same charges. All the three refused to sign reports of the parliamentary commission investigating KGB activities in Lithuania claiming their links to the Soviet secret service. Shortly after that the reports were submitted to the court.

A member of the commission investigating KGB activities, deputy Jurgis Jurgelis denied allegations by its chairman, deputy Balys Gaiauskas that Director of the Lithuanian Sociological and Legal Institute Algimantas Matulionis had collaborated with the KGB.

Deputy Accused of Being Agent

LD2603214392 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 26 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius March 26 TASS—Virgilius Juozas Cepaitis, member of the Lithuanian Parliament, deliberately cooperated with the Soviet Union's State Security Committee, KGB. This verdict was read out on Wednesday [25 March] after the conclusion of the hearings of the civil case on this matter in the Lithuanian Supreme Court. The hearings lasted for two days.

It should be noted that Virgilius Cepaitis was regarded among the most radical and influential members of parliament, was known in the republic as the "grey cardinal", actual leader of the parliamentary majority, former executive secretary of Sajudis, chairman of the Independence Party close to the leading circles. He headed the Permanent Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights and Ethnic Affairs. Revelations that he is a KGB agent came like a bombshell in mid-November, 1991.

Although the Parliamentary Commission studying the activity of the KGB in Lithuania confirmed that Cepaitis cooperated with security bodies, he denied the accusation and continues to sit in parliament despite protests. Under a parliamentary law, if a deputy rejects accusations of deliberate cooperation with security bodies, the final decision is to be taken by the court. After that, voters are to decide if they have confidence in the given deputy.

Cepaitis Denies Accusations

OW2703180192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1407 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy of the Lithuanian parliament, leader of the right-wing Independence Party Virgilijus Cepaitis once again denied accusations of collaborating with the KGB.

On Thursday [26 March] the Lithuanian Supreme Council confirmed the accusations against Cepaitis.

Speaking in parliament, Cepaitis said that the charges against him were made on the basis of "fragments of documents and testimony of former KGB servicemen". He said that witnesses had not been warned about responsibility for false testimony, that is why it cannot have legal power.

Further on Landsbergis-Shushkevich Talks

LD2803181492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2230 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] It was announced at a briefing in parliament this morning that the chairmen of the Lithuanian and Belarus Supreme Councils, Vytautas Landsbergis and Stanislav Shushkevich, discussed on Wednesday [25 March] a trade agreement to be signed soon, an interstate treaty under preparation at present and the issue of speeding up the delimitation of the border.

The two leaders also spoke about the development of bilateral relations and had an exchange of opinions on the political situation in both countries.

According to the parliamentary press representative, the talk between Vytautas Landsbergis and Stanislav Shushkevich was much more profound in content but the parliamentary leaders agreed to give only this information.

The press representative said such confidentiality was most probably linked with the situation in Belarus where political forces with territorial claims to Lithuania were becoming more active. The Popular Front and National Communists were said to be uniting in Belarus against Stanislav Shushkevich, raising terrritorial claims both to Lithuania and Russia.

This is why only restricted information about the meeting in Vilnius was provided to journalists.

Meanwhile the Belarussian chairman of parliament, speaking to newsmen yesterday, defined as anecdotical reports that Belarus's foreign minister had made territorial claims to Lithuania.

Claims to Lithuania 'Stepped Up' in Belarus

OW2703161392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Report by M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Forces advancing territorial claims to Lithuania stepped up their activity in Belarus. According to BALTFAX, this conclusion was made by the state commission on the problems of Eastern Lithuania. Its members believe that Belarus claims Vilnius Region, including Lithuania's capital Vilnius.

The commission submitted its conclusions to standing commissions and factions of Lithuania's parliament.

In the meantime the head of Lithuania's parliament Vytautas Landsbergis conferred in Vilnius on Wednesday [25 March] with his Belarussian counterpart Stanislav Shushkevich. The two men evidently paid considerable attention to the territorial dispute.

So far it's not known what their discussions ended in. The press attache of Lithuanian parliament Audrius Azubalis said after the meeting that "since this isn't an ordinary problem the two sides agreed to refrain from giving official information on it for the time being".

Nevertheless it's clear that territorial claims to neighboring Lithuania are advanced not by Belarussian authorities, but by their opponents. A. Azubalis admitted it. According to him, "the Belarussian Popular Front is joining forces with nationalists and communists against S. Shushkevich, using territorial claims not only to Lithuania but also to Russia for this purpose".

Territorial Claims Noted

LD2903194292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0600 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] We have got used to the fact that the meetings of Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich with Vytautas Landsbergis have taken place at some distance from journalists. The leader of the country closest to us is obviously balancing in his country between [words indistinct] spears of ultra-communists and of the popular front are aimed at him. Yesterday one could hear on the Belarus radio some remarks by a parliamentary deputy of that country about claims to the Vilnius region.

Sources close to Shushkevich have informed the newspaper RESPUBLIKA that the chairman is making every effort to suppress tension over territorial problems in the republic.

"So far it is quiet on the border" is the heading of a dispatch by Arunas Daugela, who notes that according to Belarussian political observers, some people abroad are disturbed by normal Belarussian - Lithuanian relations. It is not difficult to guess who these people are.

Vilnius Unsatisfied With Russian Troop Talks

OW2703180492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1407 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the Lithuanian delegation at talks with Russia on withdrawal of troops, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Ceslovas Stankevicius told a news briefing in Vilnius Friday [27 March] that he was unsatisfied with the course of the talks. "Russia delays the talks on withdrawal of troops", Stankevicius said. Two months ago Vytautas Landsbergis and Boris Yeltsin met in Moscow "making the first step" to resolve this issue, but since then, Stankevicus noted, "little progress has been made".

He complained that the Russian side neither provides information about the number of its troops in Lithuania, nor confirms that it has no nuclear weapons deployed in Lithuania. The problem of former USSR's border troops also remains unsettled.

Stankevicius said that Lithuania intends to raise the issue of the withdrawal at the international level, either in the CSCE or the U.N. Lithuania believes that Russia should take into account the international public opinion because it is interested in financial aid. In this connection, "one of the main tasks of the Lithuanian diplomacy is now to link financial aid to Russia to the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania", Stankevicius said.

In an interview with the newspaper "DIENA" Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans warned that unless Russia withdraws its troops by this July, the Baltic States will not sign documents of Helsinki-2.

Soviet Officers Want To Serve in Lithuania

OW2903170492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1548 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 405 officers from the armed forces of the former USSR have sent in letters to the Lithuanian Defence Ministry applying to serve in the Lithuanian army.

The ministry newspaper SAVONORIS reports, however, that only one application in ten has been granted.